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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egyptian Paper Reports Conference Set for 5 Oct

NC0308073291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0702 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 3 Aug (MENA)—In today's issue, the newspaper AL-AHRAM says the Middle East peace conference will be held in Washington from the evening of 5 October to 6 October.

It says that in the middle of September, the United States and the Soviet Union will invite Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel to attend the conference.

It adds that an Arab state will announce the names of the Palestinian delegation that will participate in the Washington meetings as part of the Jordanian delegation.

Libya Invites Fahd, Maghreb Leaders to Ceremony

LD0408124491 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab
Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] King Fahd of Saudi Arabia yesterday evening received Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi who delivered an invitation by the brother leader to attend the 28 August ceremony marking the occasion of the waters of the great manmade river reaching Banghazi. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, JANA has learned that Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi [member of the Libyan leadership] arrived in Tunis yesterday with an invitation from the brother leader of the revolution to the president of sisterly Tunisia, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, to attend the 28 August ceremony marking the great manmade river's waters reaching Banghazi.

JANA has also learned that Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi will visit the other Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] member states to invite the AMU leaders to attend this great occasion.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Foreign Ministers Istanbul Session Begins

Iranian Minister Arrives

LD0208180391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program
Network in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Velayati, who left for Turkey at the head of a delegation in order to take part in a meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member countries, arrived in Istanbul this evening. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Minister Arrives

JN0208184391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1804 GMT
2 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 2 Aug (INA)—Mr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Istanbul today to head the Iraqi delegation to the 20th foreign ministers conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] countries, to be held 3-8 August.

Mr. Sahhaf toured a number of countries in Southeast Asia as President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, carrying oral messages to the leaders of these countries from his excellency. He also held talks with ranking officials in these countries.

Turkey, Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia Hold Meeting

Turkish Minister Comments

TA0308194891 Ankara TRT Television Network in
Turkish 1700 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, Syria, and Saudi Arabia met in Istanbul today, one day before the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] meetings are scheduled to begin.

Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud reviewed the topics to be discussed during the ICO meetings, the aftermath of the Gulf crisis, and the latest regional developments.

In a statement to journalists after the meeting, Giray said that all the foreign ministers viewed the application by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus for full membership in ICO favorably.

Velayati—Oppose U.S. 'Plan'

NC0408060891 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Turkey held a quadripartite session for two hours in Istanbul last evening and discussed the internal situation in Iraq, the possible effects of the lack of independence and stability of that country on the region—especially in contiguous countries—and the manner of tackling the repercussions of the Persian Gulf crisis that affect these four countries as well as the ICO.

This session was held to assess regional issues at the Islamic Republic of Iran's request. According to our special correspondent in Turkey, Prime Minister Velayati also met with the Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs and discussed important regional and international issues, especially those on the agenda of the ICO foreign ministers' session.

During this meeting, Velayati commented on the U.S. plan for Palestine and said: The ICO should adopt a firm stance opposing this plan. It has been decided that the foreign ministers of Iran and Pakistan will take a joint stand to approve this proposal in the final resolution of the conference.

The Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs referred to the convocation of the recent session of Iran, Pakistan, and the Afghan mujahedin leaders in Tehran and Peshawar, and termed the talks on the Afghanistan issue as positive. The expansion of mutual cooperation within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] also was reviewed by the two foreign ministers.

Velayati Comments on Meeting

LD0408210391 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The 20th session of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] began its work today in Istanbul. [passage omitted]

After the executive committee members were elected and the heads of the 19th and 20th ICO sessions delivered speeches at the morning session, the session for speeding up the agenda and for forming quadripartite committees continued without the presence of journalists.

Yesterday afternoon, the eve of the meeting of the ICO foreign ministers, a quadripartite session of the foreign ministers of Iran, Syria, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia convened behind closed doors.

Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati discussed the session in an interview with us:

[Begin Velayati recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The background to this session goes back to the time when his excellency, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, respected president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, visited Syria and Turkey. The Islamic Republic of Iran suggested convening such a session, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was put in charge of coordinating and implementing it. Since then, various visits and many messages were exchanged among these four countries until finally the date—the day preceding the ICO meeting—was agreed upon. This session met yesterday.

Noting that this year's Islamic Conference is taking place under the special circumstances of the Persian Gulf crisis aftermath, that we are on the threshold of witnessing important world events, and that we have before us the very important question of Palestine, it was important for us to talk to one another. It was essential for each country to express its opinion and for as much coordination as possible to be established, bearing in mind that these four countries are among the most important members of the Islamic Conference. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Egyptian Minister Absent

NC0308192191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1855 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 3 Aug (MENA)—MENA's correspondent has learned that Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa did not participate as scheduled in the quadripartite meeting held today among the foreign ministers of Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Syria on the sidelines of the Islamic foreign ministers conference, which opens here tomorrow. Musa's absence from the meeting has given rise to much speculation and many at the conference are wondering about the reasons for his behavior.

Tripartite Meeting Held

NC0308193991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 3 Aug (MENA)—A tripartite meeting was held here this evening among the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia. MENA has learned that the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers called on the Egyptian foreign minister immediately after the end of the quadripartite meeting they held with the foreign ministers of Turkey and Iran.

Musa has said that Egypt was briefed on the discussions during the quadripartite meeting as part of coordination among the various parties.

A source close to the conference has said that the inclusion of any item on the conference's agenda must be done in coordination with Egypt, in its capacity as chairman of the Islamic Conference Organization's 19th session.

ICO Foreign Ministers Begin Meetings

Spokesman Outlines Agenda

TA0308183291 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1600 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The agenda of the 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting was discussed today during a meeting of senior officials headed by Ambassador Ozeren Sanberk, Foreign Ministry under secretary.

In a statement following the meeting, the Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar explained that, despite Iraqi objections, an item on the results of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait was included on the agenda at the Kuwaiti representative's request.

He noted that the item on the application by the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] for full membership in the ICO was also included, and he added that Turkey requested the participating countries' support on this issue.

Sungar said that the problem of the Turkish minority in Bulgaria will also be discussed during the ICO meetings.

Pointing out that this is the first high-level meeting of the ICO since the Gulf crisis, Sungar said that the participation of Iraq has increased interest in the meetings.

Sungar concluded by saying that other items on the agenda include the Palestinian problem, the Arab-Israeli conflict, Afghanistan, Kashmir, the Islamic population in countries that are not ICO members, and cooperation among member countries.

The Western Thrace Turks are being represented in the meetings by a delegation under Sadik Ahmet, an independent deputy from Gumulcune [Komotini]. The TRNC, on the other hand, is being represented by a delegation under TRNC Foreign and Defense Minister Kenan Atakol.

The ICO foreign ministers meetings will end on Thursday, 8 August.

Iraqi-Kuwaiti 'Dispute' Surfaces

NC0308162191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 3 Aug (MENA)—The meeting of experts preparing for the 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference today reflected sharp differences between the Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegates. When the Kuwaiti delegate sought to have an item concerning the effects of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait added to the agenda, the Iraqi delegate objected on the grounds that it was too late to include new items on the agenda. The Iraqi delegate said that if the Kuwaiti demand was accepted, Iraq would demand that an item on what he called the continued U.S. aggression and economic embargo against Iraq be added as well.

A heated debate involving the Gulf countries ensued. In an attempt to settle the dispute, it was suggested that the matter be put to a vote. A majority voted in favor of the Kuwaiti request, and the item was then added to the agenda.

Observers expect further sharp disputes between Iraq and Kuwait, particularly as the Iraqi demand was rejected during discussion of the ICO secretary general's report on the implementation of the final statement issued by the 19th ICO foreign ministers conference on the Iraqi-Kuwaiti situation.

ICO Head Praises Turkey's Role

T01005016791 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network
in Turkish 2000 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], has said that, as in the past, Turkey continues to play an important role in developing cooperation among the Islamic countries. In a written statement issued on the eve of the ICO foreign ministers meeting that starts tomorrow, al-Gabid pointed out that the fact that President Turgut Ozal will officially open the conference is evidence of Turkey's

efforts to strengthen cooperation between the ICO and the Islamic countries and to serve the just causes of the Islamic world. The ICO secretary general stressed that, at a time when nations are moving toward a new world order, for the Islamic world to be able to achieve its targets, the ICO must be strengthened.

Terms Palestinian Rights Essential

LD0408171991 Tehran IRNA in English 1443 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, Aug. 4 (IRNA)—Secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) [ICO] Hamid al-Gabid said here today that peace, stability and prosperity in the Middle East is dependent upon the "inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people."

In his inaugural address to the 20th OIC foreign ministerial meeting, he said "we have taken a collective and sacred oath to devote our energies and means to liberate al-Qods al-Sharif [holy Jerusalem] and all the Palestinian and Arab territories occupied by the Zionist enemy."

Al-Gabid called on the 45-member organisation to increase, at this crucial moment, its support to the "blessed intifada" in Palestine, and to maintain strong pressures at international level on Israel, whose "real intentions and sombre designs," he said, are becoming more clear to the entire world.

However, the former prime minister of Niger thought that Washington's efforts to convene its so-called peace conference on the Middle East, have led to the emergence of "new political concepts."

Touching on the issue of Iraq, al-Gabid said that in the face of the "incomprehensible stubbornness of Iraq," the Muslim world has again been thrown into tragedy only two years after the "protracted fratricidal conflict between Iraq and Iran."

He said Iraq, by overcoming the impulses that were at the origin of this serious crisis and by committing itself to live in peace with its neighbours within the requirements of international laws, has a place and a role to play in the community of Islamic nations.

Al-Gabid lauded Iran and Pakistan for their efforts to resolve the Afghan issue, and for services rendered to the Afghan refugees.

He also had a word of praise for other member states whose great humanitarian assistance was a source of comfort to the Afghan people who are still facing numerous difficulties.

Elsewhere in his address, the OIC secretary general congratulated Lebanese President Ilyas Hrawi on restoration of peace in Lebanon after 16 years of violence.

The issues of Kashmir, Cyprus and the Horn of Africa were among other topics touched by al-Gabid in his speech.

Ozal, Velayati Address Conference

LD0408111191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The 20th session of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers opened in Istanbul today with a speech by Turkish President Turgut Dozal. We draw your attention to a report from the correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Correspondent] In his speech, the Turkish President stressed the role of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] as a framework for the establishment of cooperation and friendship between Islamic countries, and he spoke of the crisis which arose from the Iraqi attack against Kuwait. He said: It is up to us to prevent the repetition of such an event. The best way to reach this objective is to put our differences aside. Mr. Ozal also referred to closer economic cooperation as the best way to establish peace and stability.

Then short speeches were made by ICO Secretary General Dr. Hamid Algabid and the foreign minister of Senegal as representatives of African countries; by the foreign minister of Lebanon as the representative of Arab countries; and by Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign minister, as the representative of Asian countries.

In his speech, Mr. Velayati stressed that the current session is being held at a very important time. He spoke of the downfall of Marxism in the East and international cooperation to achieve peace. He referred to the Persian Gulf crisis as the cause of immense damage to the people of Iraq and Kuwait and the entry of aliens to the region. He also stressed the need for extensive efforts to reach Islamic objectives in member states and on the international scene. [passage omitted]

Ozal Calls for Economic Cooperation

TA0408142091 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1000 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpt] President Turgut Ozal has said that economic cooperation is the most effective way to preserve peace and stability among Islamic countries. The 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference began in Istanbul this morning with an opening speech by President Ozal. Ozal noted that this conference has convened only a short time after the tragic incidents that have caused pain, suffering, and damage in the region and said that such incidents, which resulted from the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait, should not be repeated. He added that Turkey pursued a very clear and principled policy from the outset of the crisis. Ozal continued: From the very beginning we adopted a policy in line with the principles of law, justice, and the peaceful solution of conflicts. The issue requires our organization to assume significant duties. I would like to emphasize the necessity of performing those duties equitably and responsibly. Furthermore, we should also

prepare the ground for a sound foundation to avoid a repetition of similar injustices.

Pointing out that there are lessons to be learned from the developments in the world and in the Middle East, Ozal added that economic cooperation is the most effective way to preserve stability and peace among nations. He said that he, as president of the ICO Permanent Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, exerts every possible effort to foster economic cooperation among member countries. Ozal noted that establishing the necessary national and regional infrastructure would improve mutual interdependence among the member nations. He said that Turkey has introduced the idea of helping the Arabian Peninsula with the Turkish rivers that flow into the Mediterranean within that framework. Ozal said: To seek possibilities for cooperation involving such a natural resource, which is most critical for many nations, Turkey will host a Mideast water summit in this city next November. We hope that the recent initiatives for a peace process in the Middle East will be fruitful. Peace will help bring about these projects.

Stressing that Turkey is the only ICO member country participating in the CSCE, Ozal added that Turkey is ready to share its experiences with the brotherly Islamic countries.

Ozal stated that the recent changes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union have revived religious belief in those countries. With the collapse of communism, he said, Eastern European countries have begun adapting to democratization and liberal economic policies. He added that it seems Islamic countries will benefit from that positive development. He said that the Muslim communities in those countries can now expect to attain religious freedom and preserve their ethnic identities.

He noted that the positive developments in international relations have enabled the diversion of economic resources from military to civilian uses. He added: The fact that the countries which previously had communist economies are now beginning to privatize and open up to world markets can create many new possibilities for the business sectors in ICO member countries. The single European market to be established on the other side of the continent at the end of next year will also create new opportunities and will greatly influence our economies. If we act in unison on this situation, we will be able to resolve any problems we might encounter in our mutual interests. It is necessary to better coordinate the Islamic countries' economic policies and to increase solidarity and cooperation to overcome the difficulties facing us.

In conclusion, Ozal expressed the hope that the member countries would work for the success of the 6th Islamic summit, to be held in Senegal at the end of this year. [passage omitted]

Egypt's Musa Delivers Speech

NC0408143091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 4 Aug (MENA)—Egypt has reiterated that there can be no real peace in the Middle East unless a just and lasting solution is found for the Palestinian problem, which is the core of conflict in the region.

Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa expressed this view at the opening session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers conference in Istanbul today. The foreign minister noted that the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly the Palestinian problem and the Jerusalem issue, has always been given the highest priority treatment by Egyptian diplomats. Egypt chaired the 19th session of the Islamic countries' foreign ministers.

The Egyptian foreign minister said in his address that, following the liberation of Kuwait, it was imperative to double efforts toward activating the peace process in the Middle East to take advantage of the momentum generated by the implementation of the principles of international legitimacy during the Gulf crisis.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that Egypt continues to support the "land for peace" principle outlined in the international legitimacy provisions represented in Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and supports the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people. Musa affirmed that Egypt believes that international legitimacy is an absolute principle which neither uses nor tolerates double-standard policies.

'Amr Musa added that the biggest obstacles for the Mideast peace process are Israel's settlement policy in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem; Israel's disregard for the Palestinian peoples' national rights; and Israel's attempts to undermine all international efforts to work out a just and peaceful solution to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East conflict.

The Egyptian foreign minister noted that the concerned Arab parties have voiced their full readiness to participate in the Middle East conference. He said that Israel's agreement to participate in the peace process is a step in the right direction but one that should not be made with conditions.

'Amr Musa continued: It should be understood that who participates and who is present at the conference must not be considered purely matters of form. Participation requires a clear-cut political willingness to take part in the establishment of a just peace based on international legitimacy. He affirmed that peace is indivisible and should be enjoyed by everyone and added that a peace which is not based on justice will be short-lived.

Concerning the issue of curbing the arms race in the Middle East, 'Amr Musa said that, as an Islamic country, Egypt will not accept the notion that the process of

dismantling weapons of mass destruction can be applied to some countries and not others.

Referring to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait on 2 August 1990, 'Amr Musa said that when the ICO dealt with the Gulf crisis, it acted in accordance with the principles of Islamic solidarity and advised using peaceful means to settle the conflict. The ICO, he said, rejects aggression, upholds the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member-countries, and opposes violations of internationally recognized borders and interference in the internal affairs of any country.

Concerning the Afghanistan problem, 'Amr Musa said the ICO believes it is necessary to find a comprehensive political settlement involving the formation of a broadly based government which is acceptable to the Muslim Afghan people and free from foreign pressure or intervention.

Concerning the Somalia problem, Musa expressed the hope that the Somali factions would succeed in achieving national reconciliation and preserving the country's unity.

As for the economic challenges facing the Islamic world, the Egyptian foreign minister said that the ICO should adopt comprehensive political measures confirming the distinguished nature of the ties between Islamic countries.

As for the problem of Jammu and Kashmir, Musa said that Egypt supports all efforts which seek to resolve that problem peacefully.

Concerning the Cyprus issue, 'Amr Musa said the ICO supports the efforts directed at settling the Cyprus problem through dialogue and backs the UN secretary general's proposals.

Turkey's Giray Named Term President

TA0408163991 Ankara ANATOLIA in English
1550 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul (A.A.)—[Turkish] Foreign Minister Safa Giray became the term president of the 20th foreign ministers conference of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [ICO], on Sunday.

His predecessor was Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

In his address, Giray announced that Kuwait, Cameroon and Palestine foreign ministers have been named assistant president and Egypt rapporteur.

Recalling that the conference was the first of Muslim countries since the Gulf crisis, Giray said that what counted now was to be hand in hand and determine a common stand.

Also taking the floor, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said that it was their duty to make the Islam society resist problems.

Pointing out Islamic states had certain rights before the world and those rights should be defended, Musa said that identities [word indistinct] preserved [words indistinct] a threat.

Secretary General of the ICO Hamid al-Ghabid, who took the floor, commented on the Cyprus issue, saying that the Turkish Muslim society was fighting for 13 centuries on the island, to live under a bicomunal setting.

Recalling that he had personally held a talk with Turkish Cypriot President Rauf Denktas, he said that this meeting was an indication of their support to Turkish Cypriots.

We are supporting their just struggle and believe that a four-way meeting on the issue would be useful, he said.

Comments on Cyprus, Middle East

T40408185491 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Safa Giray this afternoon took over the presidency of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] from Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The ICO then continued its deliberations behind closed doors.

Giray held a news conference after taking over the presidency of the ICO. He said that the agenda drawn up during yesterday's high-level meeting of the ICO was adopted without any change. Giray noted that the Iraq proposal on the embargo, which was not included in the agenda during yesterday's meeting, was again discussed and rejected by the ICO assembly today.

In reply to a reporter's question about developments concerning the membership of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus [TRNC] in the ICO, Giray said: The TRNC has not applied for membership in the ICO, but the Turkish Cypriot community has. We held the necessary talks with the ICO members on this subject, and they have promised that they will support this membership and they will not create any difficulties. There has been much disagreement over the quadripartite meeting to be held on the Cyprus question. The argument focuses on whether the intensive work of the UN secretary general for this four-way meeting will benefit the Turkish Cypriot community and how this will affect the Turkish Cypriots. We are pleased that such a discussion is taking place.

Responding to a question on Turkey's expectations for a Middle East peace conference, the foreign minister remarked: We are in favor of resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict in accordance with UN resolutions. Activities are currently under way to convene a peace conference, especially on the part of the United States. We support those activities. We declared that we are ready to host such a conference.

On the subject of the peace water project, Giray announced that if such a project is realized, Israel must also benefit from it, otherwise, it cannot be called a peace water project. [passage omitted]

Bowayz Gives Arab Group Speech

NC0408175491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Turkish President Turgut Ozal today opened the 20th conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] at the Istanbul Hilton hotel. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Bowayz delivered a speech on behalf of the Arab group. He said: [Begin recording] Your Excellency the President, Ministers, and Excellencies: The Arab group has given me the honor of speaking on its behalf so that I can congratulate you on the convocation of this conference in Istanbul at this time. [passage omitted]

Our world is going through a delicate and critical phase which requires wisdom, clear vision, foresight, and an in-depth knowledge of international politics and the changes marking our age. These changes are bound to take the form of a new world order. [passage omitted]

The 20th conference of the ICO foreign ministers will truly be called the session for just and lasting peace through dialogue, cooperation, and respect for international legitimacy.

Changing systems have no mercy on those who do not know how to face change with unity of ranks and solidarity at critical stages. Throughout history, many states have disappeared from the political map while others have consolidated their systems and roles and taken charge of events and the future.

Therefore, we must close ranks, bind our solidarity, and rise above our differences through close and strong cooperation, clear and frank dialogue, and a realistic logic which should guide our decisions and give us better insight.

Mr. President, we pray for your success and express our gratitude to Turkey for the hospitality with which we have received in this hospitable, historic, and friendly country. We also thank the chairman, the secretary general, and the staff for the efforts they have made to organize and run this meeting.

May the Almighty guide your steps. [end recording]

Ozal Hosts Dinner for Delegates

T40508075791 Ankara Turkish Radiolari Network in Turkish 2000 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] President Turgut Ozal has said that eliminating the negative effects of the Gulf war is more difficult than it appears. Ozal gave a dinner today in honor of the

heads of the delegations that are participating in the 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting.

Addressing the dinner, Ozal said that the Gulf crisis traversed the developments and changes that occurred in East-West relations and in Europe during the last few years. Ozal said that at a time when the world joyously hailed the end of the cold war, the demolition of the Berlin Wall, and the reunification of Germany, it was faced with a burning problem coming from the Gulf. Recalling that he had the opportunity to follow the Gulf crisis closely, Ozal said that it is really unfortunate that this incident, which terrified the world, occurred between two Islamic countries.

He pointed out that learning the necessary lessons from the Gulf crisis can facilitate the search for a just and lasting peace in the future and continued: As I have stressed on various occasions, the countries that are below the development line, most of which are ICO members, should not engage in futile arguments and should not lag behind the contemporary phenomenon of technological revolution and general prosperity. It is imperative that we leave the next generations lasting and valuable works based on Islamic philosophy.

Recalling that future historians researching our times may reach the conclusion that great upheavals were caused because no solutions were found to conflicts existing primarily in areas where Islamic countries are located, Ozal said: Our historical responsibility is to prepare a healthier, more rational, and more positive future for coming generations. It is imperative that we seek formulas to resolve conflicts within the framework of international law and justice to ensure the prevalence of the existing order. Ozal concluded by expressing his conviction that the ministers and delegates participating in the conference will act with wisdom and in accordance with this principle.

Ministers Hold Meetings on Conference Sidelines

Velayati Meets Lebanon's Buwayz

NC0208162891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and his accompanying delegation arrived in Istanbul this afternoon to take part in the 20th conference of foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization, which opens tomorrow and will last until 8 August. [passage omitted]

Buwayz met with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Istanbul airport. Velayati expressed the hope that all hostages, regardless of their nationality and including the Lebanese held by Israel, will be released soon. Velayati stressed the close relations between Lebanon and Iran.

Confers With Syria's al-Shar'

NC0108062791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0130 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, currently in Istanbul to attend the ICO conference, met Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' last night. According to our correspondent in Turkey, the two discussed international issues, particularly the Middle East situation, and current regional developments.

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording]: During this meeting, the Syrian foreign minister explained his country's position on recent regional developments and said: Syria's position has not changed in any way.

Foreign Minister Velayati said: In the past, Syria has consistently proven it is serious about its stance against Israel, which is the most principled position for Palestine among the countries on the front line. The Islamic Republic of Iran always has supported Syria's anti-Zionist stance and will continue to do so.

Velayati added: In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf crisis, the United States wants to capitalize on the situation to put an end to the Palestinian problem in line with its current regional policy—to benefit Israel. The current circumstances highlight the need for a new initiative to unite the Islamic countries now more than ever. [end recording]

Holds Talks With Turkish President

LD0408221291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran in English 1930 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Mr. Velayati, foreign minister of our country, met and conferred on Sunday afternoon with Mr. Turgut Ozal, president of Turkey. Our correspondent reports:

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] At this meeting, Mr. Velayati, while submitting the written message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the president of Turkey, raised with Mr. Ozal the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the convening of the session of the heads of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] on the 4th and 5th of Azar this year [25-26 November 1991] in Tehran. This was accepted by Mr. Turgut Ozal.

Thus, bearing in mind that this proposal has already been accepted by Mr. Nawaz Sharif, prime minister of Pakistan, the convening of the session of the heads of ECO on the said date, in Tehran, has been finalized.

At this meeting, the president of Turkey welcomed the convening of the important quadripartite session of Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Saudi Arabia and called for the continuation of the work of this session. At this meeting, relations between the two countries were also evaluated, and the president of Turkey emphasized ways to strengthen and expand these relations.

Meets Sudanese, Qatari Ministers

NC010008191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0100 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Our correspondent reports from Istanbul that our foreign minister, Mr. Velayati, was briefed by his Sudanese counterpart on the situation in his country when the two ministers met yesterday. The Sudanese foreign minister also praised the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance on the Palestinian problem and described the transfer of Jews to Israel as a dangerous plot. He thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its assistance to Sudan and said his government attaches great importance to the expansion of bilateral political and commercial relations.

For his part, Mr. Velayati welcomed the expansion of friendly relations between Iran and Sudan and the easing of tension in Sudan, adding: We are following up on the agreements reached during the last session of the two countries' joint committee.

In another meeting yesterday afternoon, Mr. Velayati and the Qatari minister of agriculture and municipal affairs discussed developments in the Persian Gulf, the agenda for the Islamic Conference Organization's foreign ministers conference, and bilateral relations.

Ozal Receives Delegates

TA0408191891 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Statement by presidential spokesman Kaya Toperi; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] President Turgut Ozal received at the Istanbul Officers House today Akram Zaki, secretary general of the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati; (Muradalefe Fazil Gulam ogy), member of Azerbaijan's Supreme Soviet Presidium; and (Sheikh al-Islam Allah Sukur Pashazadeh), leader of the trans-Caucasus Muslim community, who are currently visiting Istanbul for the meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

Pakistani Ambassador to Ankara Aziz Khan also attended the meeting with the Pakistani official. The visiting secretary general conveyed to Ozal the best wishes of Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and announced that the Pakistani president will pay an official visit to Turkey in the fall in response to Ozal's invitation. He added that Pakistan is taking decisive steps toward a free market economy and privatization, which Turkey has been implementing successfully, and that it uses Turkey as an example. During the meeting, the sides exchanged views on the development of economic and commercial ties among Turkey, Iran, and Pakistan within the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO], the Kashmir issue, the Afghanistan problem, the situation in Iraq, and the Middle East problem.

Iranian Ambassador to Ankara Muhammad Bagum also attended Velayati's meeting with Ozal. Velayati conveyed Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's best wishes and greetings to Ozal. They discussed the development of economic and commercial relations, both on a bilateral level and within the ECO, the undertaking of joint ventures; the situation in Iraq; regional issues; and other topics of bilateral relations.

Ozal also received the Azerbaijani delegation. Views were exchanged during this meeting on economic and cultural relations between Turkey and Azerbaijan. The delegation expressed its gratitude for Ozal's interest in Azerbaijan's problems.

Al-Shar' Meets With Counterparts

JN0308193791 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in 1730 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal met this afternoon in Istanbul. They exchanged views on regional events and on items on the agenda of the ministerial meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Istanbul.

Mr. al-Shar' also received Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz in the presence of Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rifa'i, the Syrian ambassador in Ankara. Their talks focused on the two countries' coordination on the ICO agenda and on bilateral relations.

Mr. al-Shar' also met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Turkish Foreign Minister (Sevgiray) this afternoon. They reviewed the ICO agenda.

Iraqi Minister Meets 'Abd-al-Majid

JN0308165991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1614 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Istanbul, 3 Aug (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, minister of state for foreign affairs, met here today with 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League, on the sidelines of the conference of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO]. They discussed items on the conference's agenda and the unjust blockade imposed on the Iraqi people.

An INA correspondent has reported that the secretary general expressed his support for an end to the economic blockade and said that no one accepts the Iraqi people's suffering which has resulted from this blockade.

The Arab League secretary general stressed that Iraq has cooperated positively with UN agencies, and therefore, the blockade is no longer justified. He also said the Arab League denounced the U.S. threats to strike against Iraq.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf also met Yemeni Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani here today. They discussed items on the conference's agenda and the unjust campaign against Iraq.

The Yemeni minister stressed that it was necessary to pool efforts to lift unjust economic blockade.

Meets Algerian, Palestinian Officials

*TA0408193441 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT
4 Aug 91*

[Text] Istanbul, 4 Aug (INA)—Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs, has met separately in Istanbul with Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, and Faruq Qaddumi, foreign minister of the state of Palestine, on the sidelines of the conference of Islamic foreign ministers being held there.

The INA correspondent reported that they discussed bilateral relations and items on the conference's agenda at the two meetings.

The Algerian and Palestinian ministers stressed the importance of coordination and consultation among Arab brothers at this crucial stage the Arab nation is going through as a result of the enemies' conspiracies against it.

The minister of state for foreign affairs also met with a number of ambassadors accredited to Turkey. Bilateral relations and Arab and international issues of joint interest were discussed during the meeting.

Meets With Turkish Minister

*TA0408211691 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network
in Turkish 2000 GMT 4 Aug 91*

[Text] It has been decided to mark the 20th Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meeting as a meeting of respect for a just and lasting peace and international legitimacy through dialogue and cooperation among member countries. In a statement to TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] on the conference, Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray remarked that the meeting will be recorded in history as a national conference among Islamic countries. Giray noted that another characteristic of this conference is the continuation of the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The foreign minister also held a bilateral meeting with Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf, the Iraqi minister of state for foreign affairs.

In a statement after the meeting, Giray said that the Iraqi minister of state informed him that extensive preparations are under way to establish democracy in his country. Giray remarked that al-Sahhaf explained to him that new laws on political parties and the press and a new constitution will be drawn up and a referendum will be held in Iraq in the near future.

Giray said that he suggested that the work for democratization in Iraq be open to international observers and that he received a positive response to that proposal.

In reply to a reporter's question on whether the reopening of the oil pipeline was discussed during the

meeting, Giray declared: All that depends on UN decisions. We know the subject is currently being discussed at the United Nations. We hope there will be an early result.

Al-Sahhaf announced that the meeting was positive. He said that Iraq is ready and willing to develop bilateral relations with Turkey. Al-Sahhaf added that Iraq asked for assistance from Turkey in areas not covered by the UN embargo.

Musa Meets With Giray

*NC0308204991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1945 GMT
3 Aug 91*

[Excerpts] Istanbul, 3 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has held a 90-minute meeting with Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray. [passage omitted]

Musa described his meeting with the Turkish foreign minister as very fruitful and noted that they discussed the the procedures to be followed at the Islamic foreign ministers conference. He said that views were also exchanged on various issues, including the Gulf crisis, the Middle East peace process, Cyprus, and Egyptian-Turkish relations. Musa added that he received an invitation from the Turkish foreign minister to visit Turkey and that the Egyptian prime minister received a similar invitation.

Musa pointed out that his Turkish counterpart briefed him on the outcome of his meetings today with various delegates to the Islamic foreign ministers conference. He expressed the hope that the conference will be a success and that any problems and obstacles that may arise will be overcome.

Asked if it is possible to hold a peace conference on the Middle East without the Palestinians, Musa said that there can be no peace without the Palestinians and that he hoped all parties were represented at the negotiating table. He added: We must be optimistic about the future, and at the same time remember all the lessons of the past.

Spokesman Details Meeting

*TA0408061691 (Clandestine) Bayrak Radio in Turkish
to Cyprus 0500 GMT 4 Aug 91*

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray received his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Muhammad Musa, who is currently in Istanbul for the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO].

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Foreign Ministry spokesman Murat Sungar said that they discussed the items on the agenda of the ICO foreign ministers meeting and that Musa briefed Giray on the Mideast peace process. Sungar said that they also discussed the Cyprus issue, adding: The Turkish Cypriots have applied for full membership in the ICO. We explained the reasons for the application to the honorable minister.

Asked whether the Turkish Cypriots' application for membership was discussed at the meeting, the Egyptian minister replied: We discussed it, but I cannot say anything about the issue. I explained our position, but I cannot divulge either my remarks or those of the honorable minister.

Ozal Meets Libyan, UAE Ministers

TA0508093791 Ankara Türkiye Radyolari Network
in Turkish 2000 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] President Turgut Ozal received Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, Libyan secretary for external liaison and international cooperation, and United Arab Emirates [UAE] Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Na'imi at the Istanbul Officers House today.

A statement by presidential spokesman Kaya Toperi says: In the meeting with al-Bishari, views were exchanged on bilateral relations and the situation in northern Iraq. Recalling the plight of the Turkish contractors working in Libya, Ozal called for an early solution to their problems. In reply, the Libyan secretary said that the government will address the problem and efforts will be made to reach a satisfactory solution.

In the meeting with al-Na'imi, Turkey's relations with the UAE and other Gulf countries, the situation in Iraq, and the Middle East peace process were discussed. The visiting foreign minister stressed that the Gulf countries are happy with the stand Turkey has adopted from the very beginning of the crisis.

Palestinian Affairs

Progress of Baker Tour, Peace Talks Reported

Palestinian Delegation Issue Viewed

JN0108112391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
1 Aug 91 p 21

[By Nabil 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—The Palestinian departments have received a report from occupied Palestine saying that the Israeli authorities have failed to convince some traditional Palestinian leaders to bypass the PLO and form a delegation from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip in order to implement the plot of autonomy which Israel is proposing as a solution to the Palestine question.

A Palestinian source said the report explained that all Palestinian figures [contacted by] the Israeli occupation authorities and the U.S. Embassy in occupied Palestine, including those who are not in full harmony with the PLO policy, have confirmed that the PLO is the only quarter that is authorized to speak on behalf of the Palestinian people and all that is related to the Palestine question.

The source indicated that all those whom the U.S. and Israeli organs tried to individually tempt into reaching an understanding with them on the basis of giving the West Bank and Gaza Strip the freedom to join Jordan or maintain autonomy after a three-year enforcement of this autonomy, said that no Palestinian can make any step concerning the future of the Palestinian territory and people without the PLO's consent. Most of them said they need a written mandate and instructions from Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, before they could speak within the framework defined by the PLO.

The source said personal letters were sent from occupied Palestine to the PLO leadership on the details of the contacts and meetings the U.S. Embassy and the Israeli occupation authorities held with the Palestinian figures. These letters were sent by the persons themselves who were contacted. In these letters they stressed their commitment to the positions and legitimacy of the PLO in its capacity as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

PLO 'Ready' To Form Delegation

NC0208134091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1244 GMT
2 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 2 Aug (MENA)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has emphasized that the PLO is ready to form its delegation to take part in the peace conference on an equal footing with the other parties. In comments to MENA's correspondent in Tunis in response to Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's statement, Abu-Sharif also stressed that the PLO rejects any Israeli conditions on the composition of this delegation.

Abu-Sharif welcomed U.S. President George Bush's initiative on the peace conference and said the PLO endorses the bases President Bush specified in his speech to Congress; namely, the Security Council resolutions on an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories as well as the resolutions dealing with the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and the security of all the region's countries. He added that the PLO is ready to form its delegation to take part in the conference on an equal footing with the other parties.

The Palestinian official said it is illogical and unacceptable for Israel to impose conditions on the composition of the Palestinian delegation. He added: Just as it would be inappropriate for the PLO to select the Israeli negotiating team, no outside party has the right to select the Palestinian delegation. We are not demanding a right of veto over any or all members of the Israeli delegation, and the Israeli Government alone has the right to determine its composition. Right and reason demand, however, that no party, particularly Shamir and his government, has the right of veto over or the right to choose the Palestinian delegation.

Abu-Sharif expressed his belief that the U.S. Administration would not make this kind of mistake, despite

Shamir's claims that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker had discussed or agreed to this position. He stressed that the PLO's constructive approach toward the peace process will continue and that the PLO is ready to form its delegation to attend the peace conference.

'Arafat Opposes Jerusalem 'Judaization'

LD0208184691 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Brother leader Abu-Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, has made an urgent appeal to a number of prominent Christian and Muslim religious leaders, asking them to make their voices heard in order to stop the conspiracy of the Judaization of holy Jerusalem and to preserve the sanctity of its Muslim and Christian holy sites. The brother leader president addressed this appeal to His Holiness Pope John Paul II of the Vatican; His Eminence Patriarch Aleksiy II, patriarch of Moscow and all Russia; His Eminence Patriarch Seraphim, patriarch of Athens and all Greece; His Eminence Pope Shenouda, patriarch of Alexandria and the Coptic Church; the great imam, Imam Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, imam of al-Azhar [university]; and his eminence the greatest authority, the great ayatollah, Mr. Abu al-Qasim al-Khu'i.

In his appeal, the brother leader president Abu-Ammar asked these Christian and Muslim religious men to denounce the Israeli plan aimed at Judaizing the Muslim and Christian sanctities in holy Jerusalem. The brother president said: You will make your voices heard, and you will be at the forefront of those warning of the danger of being dragged behind the Israeli plan. He added: This [Israeli] plan is aimed at normalizing Arab-Israeli relations through agreements that will give Israel what it wants at the expense of the Palestinian people and their just cause, and at the expense of their sanctities.

The brother leader president Abu-Ammar went on to say: The masses of the Arab and Islamic nation, all the faithful and their leaders, will listen to your appeal to protect the sanctities and Jerusalem—a symbol of coexistence and tolerance throughout the centuries.

PLO Conditions for Peace Conference

LD0208134991 *Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio*
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] A Palestinian official source stated today that the PLO welcomes, in principle, the call issued at the Bush-Gorbachev Moscow summit to convene a peace conference on the Middle East. In a statement circulated by Wafa [Palestinian News Agency] in Tunisia today, the official source indicated that to secure the holding of the conference and guarantee the success of the peace process, the following guarantees and conditions should be provided:

1. a guarantee that the aim of the conference will be the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which provide for ending the Israeli

occupation and stipulate the Israeli withdrawal from all Arab land occupied in 1967, including Arab land occupied in 1967 and Jerusalem;

2. a recognition of the legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is its right to self-determination;

3. the Palestinian participation at the conference will be in accordance with the decision of the PLO, while rejecting any external interference in this connection;

4. a rejection of the exclusion of Jerusalem as an issue and representation during any stage of the peace process;

5. an immediate halt to Israeli settlement activities inside the entire occupied territories, especially Jerusalem.

The same source added that the Palestinian personalities who met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker this morning have informed him of this position.

Envoy Reiterates Conditions

LD0408152491 *Berlin ADN in German* 1441 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—According to 'Abdallah al-Franji, the PLO representative in Bonn, Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, an end to the settlement policy, recognition of the right of self-determination by the Palestinians, discussion of the East Jerusalem issue, and appointing of its own delegates to attend a Middle East peace conference are the minimum demands. In an interview with the newspaper DIE WELT (Monday edition) he said that on issues "which do not touch on the substance I consider compromises possible." The PLO is prepared for the unconditional recognition of the state of Israel if Israel accepts a Palestinian state. "As the state territory we claim the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and, as capital, East Jerusalem." Israelis and Palestinians should accept an international status for both parts of Jerusalem. If this does not happen then there will be no peace.

Referring to the peace conference, al-Franji said that without the PLO there can be no lasting peace just because the two superpowers want it. "I do not believe that the Arab states can agree to a conference without the participation of the Palestinians."

The intifadah, the uprising of the Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories, will end once the people there gain their freedom. "Once the Palestinians are certain that they will be involved in the peace process, there will be no further problems in the occupied territories, for then there will be no reason to continue the uprising. That is why we insist on taking part in the conference right from the start." Anyone not represented right from the start will have no right to join later. Al-Franji does not believe that Iraq's dictator, Saddam Husayn, will attend the conference.

'Arafat Waiting for Invitation

LD0308194291 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network
in French 1800 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] What does Yasir 'Arafat think? Of course, he sees the conditions put forward by Israel as unacceptable. Yasir 'Arafat would like to be invited to the conference. This is what he said in an exclusive interview to our special envoys Veronique Taveau and Berny Meriaux, who met him in Tunis.

[Begin 'Arafat recording in Arabic with simultaneous French translation] If Israel said yes to the conference, it is because all the conditions it posed were accepted by the U.S. Administration; that is, no to the presence of the PLO, no to the self-determination of the Palestinian people, no to an independent Palestinian state, no to representatives of Jerusalem, and no to the settlement of the status of Jerusalem occupied since 1967. What is being proposed to us is not an international conference but a simple peace conference on the fringe of international legality. It is a diktat. The United States of America has given in to Israeli blackmail and to the U.S. Jewish lobby. Once again, the Palestinians will be sacrificed. It is not peace. Peace is impossible without the Palestinians. We are asking for international guarantees, the implementation of U.S. resolutions.

As for a possible concession on our part concerning Palestinian representation, I am waiting to be officially asked. For the moment, nobody has contacted the PLO directly. I sent letters many times to James Baker through the Palestinian delegation he met in Jerusalem, but he never answered the questions I asked. Why? Once more, it is the Israeli refusal which dictates the U.S. position. Here is my hand; I stretch it out to the Israelis. Now it is up to them to stretch theirs to really make peace, but the Israelis still do not want to shake the Palestinian hand. They should make the peace of the braves with us, as de Gaulle put it. [end recording]

Unofficially, it is reported in Tunis that a Palestinian National Council, that is the PLO parliament, the PNC, will meet in September, a month before the peace conference scheduled for October.

U.S. 'Hiding' Behind Peace Slogan

LD0308181991 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat said Saturday that hiding behind the alluring slogan of peace the U.S. is trying to solve only the problems of Israel in relation with the Arabs. He made the remark in a letter to the Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, delivered to the Iranian embassy in Tunis.

'Arafat said the American brand of peace for the Middle East is against Islam, against Arabs and especially against the Palestinians. The PLO chief has also called on Iran to continue her support for the Palestinians.

Al-Husayni on Jerusalem Issue

NC0308081791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0650 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] London, 3 Aug (MENA)—Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Arab Studies Center in Jerusalem, has stressed that the insistence that Jerusalem be represented in any peace conference is an important matter for national reasons as well as for religious reasons which concern all Muslims.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT based in London, al-Husayni said that the Palestinian delegation in the occupied territory, which met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in the U.S. Consulate in occupied Jerusalem several times, including yesterday, had underlined certain fundamental Palestinian principles which are summed up in the fact that the PLO has the right to name the Palestinian representatives to the conference.

Al-Husayni indicated that he had handed Baker a five-point memorandum stressing that the aim of the conference must be the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for ending the Israeli occupation of all Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni said that he had urged Baker to recognize the political and national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost of which is their right to self-determination. He explained that several questions raised by the delegation during previous meetings with Baker had remained unanswered. The only thing Baker has affirmed is the need for all parties to sit at the negotiating table to discuss these thorny issues.

Al-Husayni quoted Baker as saying that solving the problem of the Palestinian representation still requires intensive consultations. Baker explained that the best solution is for Palestinians to participate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Asked if he insists that he represent Jerusalem, al-Husayni said he sees no problem in selecting any person whom the Palestinian people's leadership says will represent occupied Jerusalem.

Al-Husayni noted that France, Sweden, and other European states are exerting efforts to make the Israeli stand more flexible. He said reports that the United States has given Israel guarantees that no PLO supporters will be accepted as Palestinian representatives are inaccurate. He said that in any case, we do not accept the imposition of conditions which Israel will use later as an excuse not to negotiate seriously about the peace issue.

Al-Husayni noted that the Palestinian delegation informed Baker that it was the PLO leadership which gave the delegation the green light to hold a meeting with him. He said that he had stressed to Baker that he would

not find one Palestinian from inside or outside the occupied territory who would accept the bypassing of the PLO.

DFLP Asks Baker To Meet PLO Delegation

JN0308192491 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] In Damascus today, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], led by Nayif Hawatimah, asked James Baker to meet with a PLO delegation during his visit to Tunisia tomorrow.

'Arafat Interviewed on Peace Talks

LD0408201191 Algiers Voice of Palestine
in Arabic 1702 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified journalists in Algiers on 4 Aug—recorded]

[Excerpts] ['Arafat] Whenever matters became serious for us and times became difficult, we came to this country, the country of 1.5 million martyrs who repeat the famous slogan: I am with Palestine, be it the transgressor or the unjustly treated.

Currently, we are unjustly treated. There is an Israeli attempt to swallow Jerusalem and Judaize the Muslim and Christian sanctities, proclaiming Jerusalem as the eternal capital of Greater Israel. Greater Israel is not only Palestine, but it stretches from the Nile to the Euphrates. Therefore, the question is not merely a Palestinian question because the current settlement is an attempt to impose Israeli conditions on the Arab nation as it says no to Jerusalem, no to the PLO, no to the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people, and no to the independent Palestinian state.

We have said yes to President Bush's initiative, which stipulates the exchange of land for peace, implementation of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories including holy Jerusalem, and the legitimate national political rights of the Palestinian people according to international legitimacy. We do not demand more than that.

[Journalist] Is there a connection between your visit and the visit by James Baker?

['Arafat] Yes, of course. No doubt it is part of it, even before James Baker comes here. As you know, he met the Palestinian delegation in Jerusalem. It is strange that he says two members of the delegation have no right to join in the negotiations after he met them eight times. They cannot join the negotiations because they are from Jerusalem, he says. This is an Israeli condition.

We have put his excellency the president in the picture, and we have great confidence that the brother president and the Algerian Government and the Algerian people, the people of the 1.5 million martyrs, will stand as usual,

firm and strong by the side of Palestinian rights, by the side of the first Qibla and the third holy mosque. We have great confidence that as long as the question is in honest hands, Palestine will always find its shield in Algeria and in my brothers here in the Maghreban Union. [passage omitted]

I also discussed with his excellency the president the possibility of holding the meeting of the Palestinian National Council, the PNC, next month in Algeria. As is typical, he said Algeria opens her arms to the Palestinian people and to the Palestinian National Council.

[Journalist] What is the position of the Palestinian people, of Palestine as a whole, if Israel insists on adhering to its conditions in an international peace conference?

['Arafat] The same as Algeria's. What did you do? More martyrs, more sacrifices, and more steadfastness. This intifadah, this resistance, and this Palestinian revolution will continue wave after wave until the Palestinian flag is hoisted, God willing, over the walls of Jerusalem and over the minarets and churches of Jerusalem. God willing.

[Journalist] So in other words, Palestine continues to adhere to its own conditions?

['Arafat] Is there any other option? These are rights. Do not forget that the Palestinian program we proclaimed here in the land of Algeria rests on Arab legitimacy, Islamic legitimacy, the nonaligned countries' legitimacy, African legitimacy, and the legitimacy of the United Nations. This is what I announced in the name of the Palestinian people at the United Nations in Geneva in 1988.

[Journalist] We hope you reach that aim. Thank you, Mr. President.

['Arafat] God willing, God willing, whether it takes a long time or a short time, we will pray together in Jerusalem, God willing.

[Journalist] Media sources say that Jordan and the PLO have agreed on the formation of a Palestinian delegation.

['Arafat] At this point, we have not achieved this. It is true that King Husayn has expressed his readiness for such a thing, and I thank him for it. This subject is still to be discussed by the Palestinian leadership.

[Journalist] Mr. President, how do you see the outcome of the Middle East countries conference if the PLO or the Palestinians of East Jerusalem do not participate?

['Arafat] Then with whom will there be peace? Peace with whom? If not with the Palestinians, then it will not be peace but a settlement, a new Camp David, to normalize Arab-Israeli relations. Is this the objective? Is this the new international order sought by America?

Hamas Rejects Peace Conference

NC0408171191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1623 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Amman, 4 Aug (MENA)—The Palestinian group Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has announced its rejection of the holding of a Middle East peace conference. In a statement distributed today in Amman, the group said the aim of that conference is to perpetuate the Israeli occupation.

DFLP Suggests PLO Active Role

NC0408201491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] has said the PLO would be risking its very existence unless it insisted on playing an active role in the Middle East peace talks. In a statement issued in Damascus, the DFLP said that the defeatist policies pursued by some people have produced nothing but humiliation and disgrace and would lead only to the PLO's committing suicide and being written off.

Abu-Sharif on Palestinian Attendance

NC0408191691 Paris AFP in English 1711 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Tunis, Aug 4 (AFP)—U.S. efforts to convene a Middle East peace conference gained momentum Sunday, with the Israeli Government officially backing qualified acceptance of the plan and a senior PLO figure predicting that the Palestinians would also take part.

"I think the Palestinians will attend this conference and I don't think there will be an obstacle that is big enough to prevent the Palestinians from going to the conference," declared Bassam Abu-Sharif, an adviser to the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasir 'Arafat.

Abu-Sharif was speaking here to reporters accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived in the Tunisian capital from Morocco Sunday to meet President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

The PLO leader on Sunday sent urgent messages to Arab and Islamic leaders appealing to them not "to allow themselves to be drawn into a U.S.-supported Israeli plot," the Palestinian news agency Wafa reported here.

But Abu Sharif said he was confident that despite Israeli objections, PLO-designated representatives would attend the proposed conference. "I think there is room for a formula that will facilitate the peace process," he said.

"The PLO will designate a Palestinian representation that is acceptable to all parties who want peace," he told journalists, adding that "we cannot possibly accept any Israeli interference with the formulation of the Palestinian delegation." [passage omitted]

Further on Abu-Sharif Comments

JN0508091691 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
5 Aug 91 p 15

[Excerpt] Capitals, News Agencies—[passage omitted] A short while after PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Algeria, Bassam Abu-Sharif, political adviser to the Palestinian president, made statements in Tunis in which he said that he saw no obstacles to Palestinian participation in the peace conference.

Abu-Sharif, who stressed that he is speaking officially on behalf of the PLO, said: I think that there is room for a formula that will facilitate the peace process.

Talking to the journalists accompanying U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, Abu-Sharif added: The PLO is very well aware of these pressures. I think that the Palestinians will participate in the conference, and I do not think that there will be an obstacle to prevent them from going to the conference.

Asked if the PLO would agree to citizens of East Jerusalem being represented by a Jordanian born in Jerusalem, he said: This is the room for an acceptable formula of which I am speaking.

Abu-Sharif was not clear enough. For example, he said: The PLO will appoint a Palestinian delegation that is acceptable to all parties that want peace.

Abu-Sharif also said: We cannot accept any Israeli intervention in the formation of the Palestinian delegation.

He also stressed that the United States must discuss the problem of Palestinian representation with the PLO. Yet he added: This is not a sine qua non condition.

'Arafat Not To Make Concessions

LD0508103491 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0951 GMT
5 Aug 91

[Text] Rabat, 5 Aug (MAP)—Bassam Abu-Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian leader, has denied that President Yasir 'Arafat has openly expressed his willingness to make concessions on the issue of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference if formally requested to do so. In a statement to the international Radio Mediterranean, Midi 1 [based in Tangiers], Abu-Sharif expressed his belief that "President 'Arafat did not clearly say that the PLO will form a delegation to the peace conference as soon as it receives an invitation to attend that conference."

He said: "President 'Arafat stressed very clearly that the PLO has the right to name the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference and that no other party, especially not the occupying party, namely the Israeli Government, is entitled to determine which Palestinian delegation will meet the other parties at the peace conference or has the right to object to any member of the delegation."

Abu-Sharif added that 'Arafat had reiterated that "the holy city of Jerusalem is an integral part of the occupied territories and this means that the negotiations will concern all the territories occupied in 1967. The composition of the Palestinian delegation must include representatives from all the occupied territories and from outside the occupied territories, not just areas determined by the Israeli Government."

Jihad Threatens Those Who Met Baker

JN0408152191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1500 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Leaflets signed by the Islamic Jihad have been distributed in occupied Gaza. The Islamic Jihad has threatened to kill the Palestinian officials who met with U.S. Secretary James Baker in the occupied territory. The leaflets say that the Islamic Jihad condemns the capitulatory traitors and warns anyone who sits at the negotiating table. The leaflets add that Faysal al-Husayni and his delegation should know that their fate will be like that of traitor King 'Abdallah [grandfather of Jordan's King Husayn].

Al-Husayni on Meeting Baker

TA0508121591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
5 Aug 91 pp 1, 11

[Interview with Faysal al-Husayni, head of Jerusalem's Arab Studies Society, by Hatim 'Abd-al-Qadir; date, place not given]

[Text] ['Abd-al-Qadir] What is your assessment of the U.S. position in the wake of your recent meeting with James Baker?

[Al-Husayni] We noticed positive as well as negative aspects in the U.S. position. On the positive side, Washington is now prepared to give the Palestinians guarantees or to issue a memorandum of understanding on the following topics:

1. the Palestinian people's right to self-determination;
2. interpreting Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to mean ending the occupation and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab lands, with slight modifications for security reasons;
3. affirming the U.S. position that Jerusalem is an occupied city;
4. affirming Palestinian sovereignty over land, water, and natural resources during the interim period;
5. affirming the U.S. position that opposes settlement and calls for practical means to halt it.

As to the negative aspect, this is the U.S. position on the question of forming the Palestinian delegation, on which we have reached no agreement. The Americans believe that introducing Jerusalem into the upcoming negotiations, be it in form or content, might undermine all their

peace efforts. Therefore, they are now trying to surmount that problem by having the Palestinian side make some concessions on the issue of Jerusalem. That is a red line for us. We cannot accept excluding the issue of Jerusalem or denying representation for Jerusalem in all stages of negotiations.

['Abd-al-Qadir] Did the Americans link the issuing of this memorandum to any concessions on the issue of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] Absolutely not. They did not put any conditions on issuing the memorandum.

['Abd-al-Qadir] Did you make any commitments to Baker?

[Al-Husayni] None at all. We did not make any commitment to him. We told him that all options are open to us.

['Abd-al-Qadir] What are those options?

[Al-Husayni] 1. That we go to the conference as an independent delegation from outside and inside the occupied territories, including Jerusalem.

2. That we go as a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation in which the Palestinian team will be appointed by us.

3. That we go as a Palestinian delegation from outside the occupied territories.

['Abd-al-Qadir] Did Baker present you a list of the names of the proposed Palestinian delegation or did you present such a list?

[Al-Husayni] We did not present him anything. We stressed to him that in light of the options mentioned above, the selection of the Palestinian delegation's members is a strictly Palestinian concern. Hence, we will not give the Americans, the Israelis, or anyone else the names of the Palestinian delegation. They will only know the members of the delegation when they enter the conference hall if we agree to take part.

['Abd-al-Qadir] What was Baker's response?

[Al-Husayni] Baker believed that the ball is now in our court and that our insistence on these conditions might torpedo the peace efforts, particularly since Israel has placed two basic conditions on accepting the American proposals, as Baker informed us. They are:

1. excluding a PLO role in the peace conference;
2. rejecting the participation of any Palestinian personality from Jerusalem in this conference.

['Abd-al-Qadir] Did the U.S. secretary of state propose to you a compromise formula between the Palestinian and Israeli positions on the issue of Jerusalem?

[Al-Husayni] He proposed that a Jerusalemite residing abroad be included in the Palestinian delegation to the conference.

[Abd-al-Qadir] What was your response to this proposal?

[Al-Husayni] We turned down the proposal. We stressed to the U.S. secretary that as far as we are concerned the issue of Jerusalem is not that of family affiliation or birthplace but a fundamentally basic issue with legal and political ramifications. We raised the problem as follows: Do you consider Jerusalem occupied territory or part of Israel? If you consider it to be part of Israel—and this is not so—then Israel has the "right" to object to the issue of Jerusalem's representation. If, however, Washington considers Jerusalem to be part of the occupied territories, how can it agree to Israel's demand for the right to object to Jerusalem's representation?

We also raised the principle of international law, which does not recognize any agreements signed by occupying authorities with those who are subject to this occupation. In the face of this legal problem, therefore, it is necessary for a Palestinian delegation from outside the occupied territories to conduct the negotiations.

[Abd-al-Qadir] You said that the Americans, in the document they are to issue, will adopt practical measures to halt settlement. What is the nature of these measures?

[Al-Husayni] The United States is still in complete disagreement with the Israelis over the settlement issue. The Americans suggested that it is possible to debate this problem seriously in the Security Council, regardless of whether the peace process continues or not. The Americans, however, believe that more important than that is our agreement to enter into negotiations because that will create a momentum that will permit Washington to exert real pressure on Israel to halt the establishment of settlements but without setting a deadline.

[Abd-al-Qadir] What was the Palestinian response?

[Al-Husayni] We stressed to Baker that Israeli settlement is illegal and violates international legitimacy and its resolutions. If we agree to take part in the conference under our own conditions, settlements must be halted simultaneously with the beginning of negotiations, not at a later stage as the Americans want.

[Abd-al-Qadir] In whose court is the ball now?

[Al-Husayni] The Americans are saying that the ball is now in the Palestinian court. They expect us to tell them yes even if it is conditional, but we emphasized to the U.S. secretary that we are awaiting answers from him, even after issuing the memorandum of understanding, which the Americans will release soon. We demanded a reassessment of Washington's position.

[Abd-al-Qadir] What is the outcome of your meeting with Baker?

[Al-Husayni] We believe that what Washington and Israel have offered so far is not enough to persuade us to

delay discussing the issue of Jerusalem. Avoiding this issue will mean losing Jerusalem from the outset. That is categorically rejected by us.

[Abd-al-Qadir] What is your message to the Palestinian masses?

[Al-Husayni] We say to our masses inside the occupied territories that we are not in a difficult situation as some are trying to depict. We have the means to foil any settlement that does not address our people's aspirations and legitimate rights. We did not say yes to Baker; rather, we told him yes, but. This is within the framework of a delegation chosen by us and within the framework of a Palestinian understanding of the content of the conference, which we will only join on a solid and clear basis without ambiguity and without renunciation of any rights. We have informed the Palestinian leadership abroad, which is the party that tasked us with holding these meetings of the American and Israeli positions. The Palestinian leadership is capable of adopting its decisive decision, which will be approved by our Palestinian people who are waging their militant struggle to restore their legitimate national rights.

We have now reached a stage where we can clarify everything to our Palestinian masses. They will have a clear and deep understanding, not simply expectations or rumors. We believe that telling the whole truth to the masses shows strength and power. When the masses are given the opportunity to know the truth, they can achieve a great deal.

Intifadah 'Call No. 73' on Talks

LD0208224191 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 2 Aug 91

["Call No. 73" issued by the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising," date, place issued not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Call, Call, Call. A call issued by the Unified National Leadership of the Uprising.

No voice will rise above the voice of the intifadah, the voice of the PLO. Call No. 73, a call on revitalizing the intifadah and confronting colonization. O masses of our heroic people, in your long march you have experienced heroism and conspiracies, rises and falls. You have always risen after every tumble stronger than before and after every massacre firmer and more determined. The force which is capable of defeating a people that is determined to triumph has not been created. Our people are aware that they confront a wide hostile front, the center of which is a fascist and racist enemy. They have not and will not manage to break our resolve and destroy our identity, our capability, and our intifadah. There is no hope for the enemies to succeed by threatening our people and destroying the national rights of almost 5 million Palestinians.

O masses of our people, over previous years our people have offered many sacrifices to regain their right of freedom and independence, and they have been able to impose their independent, national personality at the level of the international political arena and impose the PLO as a principal party in any move. This was expressed in many UN statements which have endorsed our right of return and self-determination and recognized our sole legitimate representative, a matter which has made it impossible to impose any settlement by bypassing the role of the PLO and the national plan and rights it represents. These are not open to curtailment or compromise.

Our heroic masses: Through the consecutive tours of its secretary of state, the United States aims to exploit U.S. domination which was realized in the aftermath of the Gulf war and the resulting official Arab breakdown, to slip the normalization plan—between the Arab state and the Zionist entity—through and to impose a U.S. submissive solution, the essence of which is based on autonomy instead of legitimate national right. Foremost among these is our right to return, to self-determination, and to the establishment of an independent state. This solution seeks to impose an alternative to the PLO, exclude the Jerusalem issue and impose a weak conference based on U.S.-Israeli conditions as an alternative to an international conference with full authority. This requires closing ranks and stepping up the struggle of the masses of our people in order to confront and abort this liquidation plan.

O masses of our people: In the context of the Zionist enemy's attempts to attack our people, its capabilities, and its structure, by relying on its historical uprooting colonization plan which has always constituted its spearhead and central link, the Zionists are targeting land and the expulsion of the people. That was consolidated in light of the dense Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union and other places. Shamir and his government do not deny that a massive immigration requires a massive country and refused to withdraw one inch, relying on the stance of Washington, which does not intend to exercise any pressure to force Israel to withdraw or to comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy relating to the Arab-Israeli conflict and its core, which is the Palestinian question.

While the Unified National Leadership condemns the proposal which calls for trading the ending of settlements for the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel and some Arab countries' approval of this proposal because it will lead to the normalization of relations between the Arab countries and the Zionist entity in exchange for violation of Palestinian rights, it disapproves of the stances of those Arab countries which have agreed to U.S. proposals to attend a lean conference which distances the PLO and which does not respond to the legitimate rights of our people. It considers this approval as an attempt to isolate the Arab-Israeli conflict from its content, which is embodied in a just solution to the Palestinian question,

and to transform it into an issue of borders between the Arab countries and the Zionist entity.

The memorandum of understanding between the United States and Israel concerning Palestinian representation and Israeli reaffirmations of the eternity of the annexation of the Golan, of the setting up of new settlements there, and of the laying out of a new settlement plan on the lands of the state of Palestine, all this reflects the nature and enmity of the U.S.-Israeli stance toward the Arab and Palestinian rights.

The Unified National Leadership prizes the efforts of the Preparatory Committee to set up a new Palestinian National Council on the basis of widening the participation of the people's institutions and the factions of the national struggle.

The Unified National Council condemns the continuous U.S.-Atlantic threats to strike heroic Iraq and the attempts to exterminate her moral and material entity. It calls on Arab masses to rise against the Arab regimes which support the conspiracy.

The Unified National Council congratulates the heroic Eritrean people on the occasion of its gaining its national independence.

O sons of our people, the Unified National Command wishes to reaffirm its stance towards the following issues:

I. The Chambers of Commerce—Through the elections of the chambers of commerce, the occupation aims to find political representatives for the Palestinian people, to use the words of the enemy's Defence Minister Arens, in order to divest them of authority and to divest them of their selective policy in the holding of these elections in some regions, which are determined by considerations outside the interests of the people of commerce. Following that and in order to formulate a unified national stance towards the chambers of commerce, in accordance with the following standards and precepts:

1. holding the elections on the basis of unified national electoral lists which give importance to their members and which work toward solving their problems in order to block the path of the occupation through conferring any political, representational status on those chambers;
2. rejection of any interference by the authorities with those elections and facing up to its interference with rejection of any candidate or list;
3. so elections may serve the interests of their members and the local community in all regions, we are of the opinion that they should be held in all regions without any exceptions.

II. Chambers of Industry—The present chambers of industry and commerce, in accordance with the prevailing laws in force before 1967, guarantee an equal representation of merchants and industrialists. On the basis of that, the United National Leadership of the Uprising stresses the following:

1. Palestinian industrialists will continue their membership of the chambers of industry and commerce as it is the case now.

2. The Israeli military orders amending the Jordanian law concerning the chambers of industry will not be acted upon, in view of the fact they limit the membership of the chambers to a handful of prominent industrialists, and excludes the majority of industrialists. [passage omitted]

3. The Unified National Leadership urges industrialists to set up their own organisations, rejecting the aforementioned military orders, and on national bases that would secure the interests and development of the national economy and local industry. [passage omitted]

III. Solving Internal Conflicts—The Unified National Leadership reaffirms its previous resolutions on the need to activate and stimulate the committees of national reform in all regions and on rapid action to solve any problems arising among sons of the same homeland. It also calls on those committees in Ramallah and Jannin to speed up the implementation of national solutions reached in Safa and 'Arabunah and stresses their previous resolutions not to use disguise when dealing with the masses as that is confined to struggle forces confronting to the occupation.

IV. Structural Organization—As part of the Zionist settlement policy, occupation authorities put forward detailed plans for several villages and towns of the state of Palestine and expose them to opposition through [word indistinct] during the times of curfew. This deprives the citizens of a chance to know those plans and therefore of their right to object to them.

The Unified National Leadership, while reiterating its rejection of any dealings with the structural plans, calls on experts in this field, especially Palestinian architects, to make the citizens aware of this policy, to orient them towards confronting it, and to lay down national alternatives to it. At the same time, the Unified National Leadership warns against attempts to distort and cut land deals in some villages.

The Unified National Leadership calls on the national forces and institutions in all regions to hasten to form national extended committees so as to entrench Palestinian democracy and to widen the circle of the masses' participation in making national decisions.

O heroic masses of our people, the brave intifadah constitutes our people's most important achievement. Therefore, we must constantly work to protect and nourish it so as to thwart the danger of liquidation and Judaization. Let us devote the pivot of our action to nourishing the intifadah which constitutes the essential banner of the PLO program. Let us concentrate this month's activities on confronting settlement. On this basis, the Unified National Leadership calls on the masses of our people to perform the following activities:

1. 5 August: Debates are to be held in all regions on settlement and its dangers, and the enemy's settlement plans are to be explained in every region.

2. 9 August: A day of general strike to commemorate 44 months of the intifadah.

3. 12 August: A day of distinctive escalation against the occupation and the herds of settlers. Palestinian and black flags are to be carried in commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the massacres of Tal al-Za'tar.

4. 17 August: Numerous central marches are to be held against the occupation with the participation of all groups of our people.

5. 21 August: General strike to commemorate 22d anniversary of the burning of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque and to protest settlement and the Judaization policy.

6. 2, 11, 16, and 25 August are to be considered days of general opening.

7. 28 August: A day for obstructing the passage of cars belonging to settlers in all the regions of the state of Palestine.

8. 30 August: Citizens in the towns and villages of our rural areas are to devote attention to land reclamation and cultivation.

9. The Unified National Leadership calls on Palestinians legal counsellors and lawyers to embark on an international campaign in which memoranda will be submitted to international, Islamic, and Arab bodies to explain the threats and illegitimacy of the Zionist colonization.

10. The United National Leadership calls on Jewish forces that support our people's struggles and their legitimate rights to adopt practical steps against the occupation measures of land appropriation and to confront colonization.

11. The Unified National Leadership calls on our Palestinian masses in the regions occupied in 1948 to undertake action against colonization and protect their land which is threatened with appropriation.

12. The United National Leadership calls on Palestinian and Arab masses outside to undertake activities in support of our people's struggle against colonization and expose Zionist practices of land appropriation.

Signed: The Unified National Leadership of the Uprising

Commentaries, Press on Baker Tour, Representation

Israeli Participation Viewed

LD0208202391 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers, yesterday U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Israel at the beginning of his sixth tour of the region—which is expected to include Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, in addition to Israel and today's meeting with some leading Palestinian figures in Jerusalem. Baker began his current tour with the U.S.-Soviet decision on convening a Middle East peace conference in October under his hat.

As soon as he concluded his first meeting with Yitzhaq Shamir, the enemy prime minister, Shamir emerged to tell the world that Israel has agreed to participate in the peace conference, due to be held in October, providing that a satisfactory agreement was reached on Palestinian representation at the conference. The head of the enemy's government also said: I will recommend to the government to agree to Israeli participation in the peace conference.

It seems we have returned to the diplomacy of foolish talk: Shamir says yes and then adds a condition regarding Palestinian representation.

The Israeli stance vis-a-vis this issue is well known. The Israeli Government is reiterating its stance on rejecting the participation of Arab residents of Jerusalem in the proposed Palestinian delegation. Essentially, it is rejecting the participation of the PLO in addition to rejecting the participation of Palestinians from outside. What does Shamir mean when he says: "We shall attend the conference, providing a satisfactory solution on the question of Palestinian representation is reached?" On the basis of its previous stances, the solution that would be acceptable to Israel is one that would secure the fulfillment of its conditions regarding Palestinian representation. Thus, the selection of the Palestinian delegation has become a Palestinian [as heard] right. Never in the history of conflicts and settlements has a party in the conflict chosen its own delegation to negotiate with its enemy and, at the same time, chosen the other side's delegation.

The Palestinian people have stressed their sincere and firm desire to begin a balanced peace process in the hope of ending the whirlpool of violence, tragedy, and bloodshed, for which the Palestinian people have paid a high price. The PLO has expressed its commitment to the peace strategy, which was endorsed by the Palestine National Council in 1988, and has welcomed the principles announced by U.S. President George Bush in his speech to Congress after the Gulf war.

We hope that matters do not reach the extent where the United States and others would agree to conditions that have nothing to do with peace. The question of Palestinian representation is a purely Palestinian issue, particularly since one of the first requirements of peace is to bring the parties capable of making peace to the negotiating table—not those that please one party and anger another.

U.S. Must Provide Guarantees

LD0108200891 *Algeria Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] After Baker's inability to convince Israel of the virtue of peace, the U.S. Administration continued its hypocritical and biased policy toward Israel, which put on its acceptance of Baker's proposals impossible conditions, i.e. a rejection and an obstruction of the peace process. We say after all that here is U.S. Secretary of State James Baker talking about the virtues of American-Israeli peace. This is the peace which the American and Israeli sides try to tailor-make to conform with their view of the world after the Gulf war. The U.S. Administration tries to impose defeatist conditions on Arabs and Palestinians. This is clear from the proposals which Baker tries to sell in the region.

During a news conference he held in Amman yesterday, the U.S. secretary of state said that the Palestinians will be the first winners in the proposed peace conference. If they refused to participate in this conference, they will be the first losers. Because we do not want to lose and because we seek to achieve net gains through a comprehensive and durable settlement—which takes into consideration the legitimate political and national Palestinian rights, particularly the right to self-determination and Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied territories—and because we are peaceseekers and not warmongers, we do not perceive anything to make us believe that the Palestinians will achieve the desired gain so long as the U.S. Administration submits to Israeli conditions and dictations. The latter rejects the recognition of the legitimate national right of the Palestinian people, the participation of Jerusalem citizens in the negotiations, and any PLO participation. Israel publicly announces that it is only ready to barter peace with the Arabs.

Palestinian personalities conveyed to the U.S. secretary of state during their meeting with him yesterday the Palestinian conditions for participating in any peace conference. [passage omitted]

If Baker responds to these guarantees and adopts them, it is possible to believe the sincerity of the American intentions and it is possible for the Palestinians to respond immediately to participation in any peace conference which leads to the achievement of their legitimate rights. If the U.S. Administration continues to be devoted in its support and bias for the Israeli policies, it will not be able to sell its peace proposals to the Palestinians, considering them as Aladdin's lamp at a time when the visual evidence shows that they will be the poisoned arrow which will hit the Palestinian and Arab body.

U.S. Taking Part in Israeli 'Show'

JN0408153291 *Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1600 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Brothers, for how long will this circus last? No one needs comprehensive and just peace more than the Palestinians do, whose 40-year suffering has been transformed into a daily sacrifice of lives and of what is both dear and cheap. Displacement, exile, and expatriation are other forms of Palestinian suffering. The Palestinian people are denied even the simplest of rights, to the degree that Palestinians on their land and abroad are considered a nation without territory, and their territory a land without a nation.

No one knows orphanhood as the children of the Palestinian people do. No one knows flogging, secret and public police, detention and dungeons, and interrogation at airports, as the sons of these people do. They have proved in all events their ability to recover and continue to ask for their rights, whatever the sacrifices.

These great people, therefore, under the leadership of the PLO, are deeply aware of the meaning and importance of peace. They have striven for peace with all their power to the degree that when they extend their hand for peace, they know for certain that peace is more difficult than war and that advancing toward peace does not only require courage but also a sincere spirit with the inclination for peace and one that is thirsty for justice and for making a free conscience resting on the legitimacy of humankind the arbitrator in this affair.

So far we do not understand how we can go to a peace that has no justice! We know no basis for this peace except that it is the peace of tyranny, injustice, and aggression against rights. We do not understand how we can go to a peace where the representation of Palestinians is contingent upon Israeli approval and the U.S.-Israeli agreement! How can we go to a peace where the occupied Arab Palestinian Jerusalem is nonexistent! How can we go to a peace that does not mention the Palestinians' right to self-determination, in addition to the right of others to self-determination! How can we go to a peace whose first condition is to exclude the PLO, which represents all Palestinians. This is not peace. It does not have any basis, and it does not have any international or humanitarian grounds. It is in no way anything like peace.

We also fail to understand how the U.S. Administration accepts beforehand to surrender to Israeli conditions and how it accepts Israeli objections. Moreover, how does it get involved in overturning matters and concepts, to the degree of giving in to the occupation and obliging it in all its requests, without paying any attention to the people under occupation and their right to self-determination, or showing any respect for their Jerusalem and holy places?

We will not harp on the flagrant, unjust standards of the United States because this is no secret to the American public, but we ask: Where is the U.S. Administration headed? Can it establish peace between Israel and the unknown?

We have declared that we will spare no efforts in dealing with the peace initiative. We also said that we welcomed Bush's announcement of March 1991, whose basis is land for peace and the enforcement of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. So what happened to all these concepts on the ground now?

Is Jerusalem outside Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and is it outside the land for peace formula? Is depriving the Palestinian people of their right to self-determination and of choosing their representatives also outside these resolutions? Is the setting up of settlements and Shamir's announcement that he will pursue settlement the framework for the land for peace? Is, is, and is? Many questions for which we might not find answers, save solely in time-honored Israeli ideology.

Shamir, Levi, and Arens argue that land for peace means that the Arabs will win peace and they will win the land. There is no joke or paradox here, for anyone wanting settlement and negotiations should be serious about his choice of vocabulary and terms. Otherwise, the ongoing process will become a kind of show that will not lead to even something far below peace. We believe that the Israelis are serious about their circus and that the U.S. Administration is enjoying the show and conniving with it.

Baker Performing on Israeli Stage

LD0408225291 *Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic*
1702 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] O brothers, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker did not see the reality and will not see it as long as he looks at Israel through the prism of a strategic ally and thinks no pressure should be brought to bear on it to force it to show flexibility in its attitude to the Palestinian representation question and the question of Jerusalem at the proposed peace conference.

The conditional Israeli response to participate in the peace process is nothing but an attempt to break out of the international isolation in which Israel found itself following the positive Arab, and particularly the Syrian, response to the American peace proposals.

It seems clear that the Israeli response did not carry within it any positive indications to make us believe in the existence of true Israeli intentions to participate in the peace conference proposed by the two superpowers at the Moscow summit. Hence, the American media are trying to divert attention toward the Palestinians, saying that they have not yet said yes to Baker, while Israel has said yes, although conditionally. These conditions empty the Israeli response of any positive content.

During the news conference by Mr. Faisal al-Husayni before his meeting with the American secretary of state, he stressed that the Palestinians are prepared to show a great deal of flexibility and positivism, however, they are not prepared to commit suicide. Al-Husayni asked: If Shamir is unable to respond to Baker except with a yes, why do you want us to answer him with a final yes?

While we see Baker's sixth tour as a mere theatrical performance by the American secretary on the Israeli stage, we repeat our call for more caution and vigilance about Baker's peace illusion. He is trying to spread this in the region while tangible evidence confirms that he is trying to impose a surrender and the loss of homelands. He is also trying to give legitimacy to the Israeli occupation of the occupied Arab territories, end the Arab economic boycott of Israel, and establish diplomatic relations between the Arab states and Israel. Israel has become, in bad Arab times, a sister country without offering anything toward a positive response to Arab Palestinian rights.

Abu-Nidal Group Denies Links With BCCI

*NC0208140091 Paris AFP in English 1349 GMT
2 Aug 91*

[Text] Nicosia, Aug 2 (AFP)—Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] PLO splinter group on Friday denied press reports alleging it had links with the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI).

A statement released by the Fatah Revolutionary Council and received in Nicosia said the press had involved its name in the scandal to "give it a militant image and sow division among the Palestinians." It said the papers wanted to depict Abu-Nidal as a "terrorist ... to discredit him in front of the Arab masses."

British papers uncovered an account in Abu-Nidal's name with 26 million dollars in a London branch of the BCCI. Bank director Ghassam Kassem said the money had been destined to finance terrorist attacks.

The faction, which said the bank affair was "a swindle aimed at stealing Arab money," accused Kassam of being a British spy. The British press reports also said that several British companies had unknowingly sold arms to international terrorists including Abu-Nidal, whose real name is Sabri al-Banna, through the BCCI.

Hawatimah Reelection To Lead DFLP Announced

*JN0408154191 Paris Radio Monte Carlo
in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Aug 91*

[Text] In Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced today that Nayif Hawatimah has been unanimously reelected as the secretary general of the DFLP at the conclusion of the DFLP General Assembly held in Syria last week.

Algeria**James Baker, 'Arafat Expected To Visit 4 August**

LD0408133191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] James Baker left Rabat today on his way to Tunis after the Moroccan monarch welcomed the invitation extended to Morocco to participate in the peace conference, but Hassan II said that he needed to consult the leaders of the Arab Maghreb Union which he is currently chairing before making a final decision. Baker will stop for a short visit in Tunisia in the framework of his efforts aimed at convening a Middle East peace conference. He is expected to ask the Tunisian president to try and persuade the PLO to allow a Palestinian delegation to negotiate with Israel. Before returning to Washington tomorrow, Baker will stop over in Algeria after his talks in Tunis today. 'Arafat is also expected to arrive in Algeria today.

'Arafat Arrives, Comments

LD0408151591 Algiers APS in Arabic 1435 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Algiers, 4 Aug (APS)—Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, arrived in Algiers around midday Sunday on a visit during which he will hold talks with a number of officials. [passage omitted]

After the reception ceremony, the president of the state of Palestine made a statement to the media in which he said that the PLO is for a just and comprehensive peace which cannot happen at the expense of the city of Jerusalem, which the PLO considers the capital of the Palestinian state.

'Arafat announced that "the organization demands that the settlement proposed for the Palestinian question does not contradict the Palestinian people's firm and legitimate rights as recognized by international organizations and their laws."

The president of the state of Palestine explained that "if this settlement targets the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations, the PLO leaves it to the Arab masses to express their opinion on the issue."

'Arafat Meets With Bendjedid

NC0408181491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1746 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 4 Aug (MENA)—MENA has learned that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid has agreed to host a meeting of the Palestine National Council in Algiers in September. 'Arafat arrived in Algiers earlier today and met with the Algerian president only hours before Baker's arrival in Algiers as part of a tour of the region.

FIS Official on Government-Parties Meeting

LD2807232691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The Consultative Council of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] is expected to meet tomorrow to decide whether to participate or boycott the meeting which Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali called with the political parties. On the eve of this meeting of the Consultative Council, Mr. Said Guechi, a prominent member of the FIS, held a news conference in Setif which our colleague Faical Ghames, the permanent radio correspondent there, attended. Ghames sent the following report:

[Begin recording] In his news conference, Mr. Said Guechi talked about the recent Batna conference, the FIS, and about the government's conference with the political parties. According to Said Guechi, the Batna conference gave the FIS a second wind since it came out victorious with united ranks and a unified program, and it had to adapt to the new approach put forward by the front's grass roots. Regarding those whose membership in the Consultative Council was frozen, Said Guechi stated: We respect them and we will notify them in writing about what happened, and they will appreciate the stance taken by the Batna conference. He added that the FIS endeavors to do away with leaderships and the system of cheikhs provided that its grass roots advocated the Islamic solution completely. He went on to say that the FIS will have an organizational structure including, in addition to the Consultative Council, an executive bureau and a chairman who follows the majority.

Mr. Said Guechi also said that it is in the FIS' interest to take part in the government's conference with the political parties, and on the eve of its convening we are not expecting, as he put it, any concession from the government which should not expect any concession from us either. The interest of the FIS' participation in this conference can be summed up, according to Said Guechi, in three points:

1. to affirm the FIS readiness for dialogue and its adherence to it;
2. an opportunity for the FIS to publicize its goals and principles within the limits of constitutional legality;
3. to call for an amendment to the electoral law and the law on constituency boundaries.

Regarding the letter which Abassi Madani is rumored to have written recommending that the FIS does not participate in the forthcoming conference so long as its leadership remains in detention, Said Guechi said that the FIS is not run from prisons and that it is run by the Consultative Council which will endeavor, through dialogue and understanding, to obtain the release of the FIS leadership. Mr. Said Guechi, who announced that his news conference does not mean that he is the FIS official spokesman, covered other issues which he referred to in his interview with national radio yesterday.

Dialogue Ends; Ghazali Proposes 22 Aug Session

LD0208163091 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Early this morning the proceedings of the national meeting between the government and political parties ended. These proceedings lasted three days. For more details, we go over to our Radio correspondent, Mrs. Nouara, from the Palais Des Nations.

[Noura] Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri [secretary general of the National Liberation Front, FLN] withdrew from the last session, the night session. The reason for this withdrawal was a disagreement regarding a point mentioned in the debates of the 26 Parties Committee whose proceedings took part in parallel with the night session. The point was related to calling on the state to return the assets received by the FLN and carrying out a fair distribution of material sources among all parties following the withdrawal of the FLN. [passage omitted]

The points endorsed by the 26 Parties Committee are: to lift the state of siege while guaranteeing security; to hold legislative elections before the end of 1991 which should be followed by a presidential election; to review the laws on the elections and distribution of constituencies within the framework of dialogue and consultation that has stemmed from this meeting; to call on the state to return the FLN assets and carry out a fair distribution of material sources among the parties; to clearly define responsibility for all the sides responsible for detonating the situation on 5 June while guaranteeing the right of defense irrespective of political affiliation; and to propose the setting up of a body for consultation and dialogue between parties. Agreement was not reached on these points because some parties believe that these points commit only those who sign the document. [passage omitted]

Numerous proposals for sorting out this document were heard. The prime minister suggested another meeting on 22 August to continue the dialogue. Before this date, political parties may table their proposals either individually or through forming a group of a number of parties to draft a proposal to be submitted to the next meeting. Mr. Djaballah proposed that the points mentioned in the document be submitted as demands to the president of the Republic, including the lifting of the state of siege and the release of detainees.

The proposal of the prime minister was heard following discussion of the various points on the agenda. These points were included in the list which was prepared and read to the participants. It said: Following a discussion of the various points on the agenda of the meeting between the government and political parties held between 30 July and 2 August 1991, agreement was reached on the following points:

1. to continue dialogue during a second meeting on 22 August within an organized framework;

2. to plan a new meeting to discuss proposals related to the forthcoming legislative elections which will take place before the end of this year. While awaiting this, the political parties will work freely to prepare their proposals concerning arrangements for the legislative elections. These proposals should be submitted to the prime minister no later than 18 August.

The proceedings of the meeting lasted for three days and wound up at 0400 this morning. [passage omitted]

Guechi on FIS Message to Bendjedid, Dialogue

LD0208110291 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0600 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Following the recent meeting in Batna, the Consultative Council of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has sent a message to the president of the Republic. Regarding the contents of the message and reasons for sending it, Mr Said Guechi, member of the FIS Consultative Council talks to our correspondent in Setif, Faisal Ghames:

[Begin recording] [Guechi] The message sent by the national Consultative Council was a summary of its resolutions. As you in fact know, these resolutions call for the release of the two brother cheikhs, Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, all the other detainees, the return of the premises to the FIS, the reinstatement of those on strike, and the settlement of all issues that would enable the FIS to resume its activities normally, including lifting the state of siege. We have full confidence that we will find full understanding from the president and from all appropriate authorities to at least find solutions to this issue, God willing, and within the framework of a fruitful dialogue.

[Ghames] I have a last and brief question, Mr. Said Guechi, which is as follows: The minister delegate in charge of relations with political parties and the People's National Assembly indicated that after the opening of the meeting between the government and parties, dialogue will remain open with the parties that did not attend—he frankly meant the FIS—and that it is possible to have a dialogue between yourselves and the government. Do you go along with this goal? Will you take part in a dialogue with the government at the end of this conference?

[Guechi] Personally speaking I believe that this conference does not represent the first and last chance for dialogue. On the contrary, I believe that this conference represents a simple start for a future serious dialogue with all political parties in the arena. If the FIS is absent from this conference, this does not mean, contrary to what you explained before, that it was a boycott. On the contrary and perhaps from the political point of view, the FIS absence represents a symbolic expression that may give the impression that the FIS desires to recover its political prestige and its position amid social and official circles.

In my view, dialogue remains open. Not only will it remain open, but we are all forced to hold dialogue as dialogue cannot be restricted in time and place. It is a daily practice and daily contact; dialogue is an intensive work to find solutions in all fields. Dialogue is the only path for everybody, not only for the FIS but for all groups, official and unofficial authorities, and the public. Through dialogue, they can express themselves and reach the desired goals, i.e. to serve the people, the country, and the Islamic situation in the homeland, God willing. [end recording]

Parties Reaction to Coalition Proposal Reported

LD0208174191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1130 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Italicized passages recorded]

[Excerpts] Let us now return to the meeting between the government and the opposition parties. During his intervention on Thursday at the meeting between the government and the parties, Abdelhamid Mehri, secretary general of the National Liberation Front [FLN], stated on behalf of his party that there should be a national coalition to overcome the crisis. To find out the parties' reaction to this proposal, our colleague Djahida Khalfouli recorded the following interviews with a number of party leaders. First Cheikh Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, said: *Any proposal bespeaks a desire for reconciliation. In our view, however, any reconciliation should have a number of starting points and principles. For example, what should the reconciliation be about? One should remember the old story of the reconciliation between the wolf and the lamb: any reconciliation would mean that the wolf would end up eating the lamb. We would like matters to be clear. What should a reconciliation be about? In my opinion, reconciliation must be reached—and this is paramount—upon national principles; that is, respect for Algeria's historical symbols and endeavors within the framework of knowledge and labor.* [passage omitted]

On the same matter, that is the national coalition, Mr. Hamed Khoudja, leader of the Social Democratic Party, said: *It is my understanding that Mr. Mehri's proposal is not for the immediate creation of a coalition but for a coalition after the legislative elections. I think one should not discuss an idea and adopt a stance on it before one has all the facts, but I think this is not the time for such a proposal.* [passage omitted]

Mr. Abderrahman Adjrid, leader of the National Salvation Front, has also urged the need for national reconciliation. On Mr. Mehri's proposal, he asserted: *I think it was Mr. Mehri who proposed a national coalition government. However, such a coalition should only take place after the holding of legislative elections.* [passage omitted]

As far as national reconciliation is concerned I proposed today that national reconciliation should take place, but it must be comprehensive; that is, the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] leaders must be released, there must be

reconciliation with the FIS, and we should bring the FIS into play in the democratic game. If the FIS makes more mistakes, it is we who should besiege it by telling it that it is wrong; we do not accept violence nor do we accept extremism. Freedom of speech and the other collective and individual freedoms should be respected.

Kasdi Merbah, leader of the Algerian Movement for Justice and Development, also accepted Mehri's proposal. He said: *In our opinion such a proposal is premature. We believe that we should first resolve the problem of the general elections and how they should be organized.* [passage omitted]

In contrast, Mr. Said Saadi, leader of the Rally for Culture and Democracy, RCD, has rejected any coalition with the FLN party. Let us hear his opinion: *I would like to tell you once again that there should be no understanding with the FLN. I have been asking the FLN to return the state's property to the state, but the FLN has been retorting no, and a paper like EL-MOUJAHID belongs to the FLN party. All right, keep EL-MOUJAHID, but you should return all material property; that is, state monies, real estate, and cars. The FLN is pretending not to understand the opposition parties' demands. It still lacks cultural background for a dialogue.* [passage omitted]

The Ennahda party also has a view on the coalition, as Cheikh Djaballah asserted in his interview with radio correspondent Djahida Khalfouli. *In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I think the conference was not intended to deal with such an idea. The conference was held in order to reach, in particular, an organizational framework to discuss all laws concerning elections, including organizational procedures which would guarantee the parties' participation in overseeing the elections.* [passage omitted]

Mr. Norddine Boukrouh, leader of the Algerian Renewal Party, has rejected the idea of a coalition because it was not on the meeting's agenda: *We believe that such proposals are mere buffoonery. In reality, the desired goal of this meeting is the organization of legislative elections and when and how they should take place.* [passage omitted]

Thus, after having heard party reactions to Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri's proposals, one should ask the following question: Why did the FLN call for such a coalition at this precise moment? Let us hear the answer from Abdelhamid Mehri himself: *This proposal is not a new one. We made such a proposal when we began our election campaign for the National People's Assembly. We said then that as far as we were concerned, elections were merely a way to transform pluralism from an administrative formality into reality. Whatever the outcome of the elections, and even if the FLN wins an absolute majority in the next parliament, we will still call for the creation of a national coalition and the formation of a national coalition government.*

[Unidentified correspondent] *Mr. Mehri, what are the main political trends in your opinion that could take part in the coalition?*

[Mehri] *The outcome of the next election will determine this. Of course all parties can contribute in one way or another in the crystallization of such a coalition. The main forces will be determined by the next legislative elections. The working class, through its representatives, must take part in the national coalition which will have a comprehensive reform program and in drawing up the program to guarantee a broad social backing for the coalition and for the government which will emerge from it.*

Egypt

Mubarak Phones al-Qadhafi on Regional Issues
NC0408095891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0923 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, this morning. The two leaders discussed the present Arab position and the possibilities and developments of the peace process.

Mubarak Reportedly Visits Libya
NC0408151091 Paris AFP in English 1313 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, Aug 4 (AFP)—President Husni Mubarak left here Sunday afternoon for an unannounced visit to Libya, where he is to hold talks with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhafi, informed sources said.

The official news agency MENA said Mubarak had spoken to his Libyan counterpart by telephone earlier in the day about current events in the Arab world and the Middle East peace process.

The two leaders last met on July 2 during a visit by al-Qadhafi to Egypt.

Industry Minister Signs Agreement With Libya
NC0108153691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1429 GMT
1 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—Egypt and the Libyan Jamahiriya today signed three agreements for industrial cooperation and integration between the two countries. Industry Minister Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab signed the agreements for Egypt, while Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the General People's Committee for Strategic Industries and head of a Libyan industrial delegation currently visiting Egypt, signed for the Libyan Jamahiriya.

Under the agreements, a team of experts from the Alexandria Shipbuilding Company and the Misratah

Shipbuilding Company will be set up to promote cooperation between the two firms in shipbuilding and in providing training for Libyan technicians at the Alexandria facility.

The Egyptian-Libyan industrial agreements also provide for the exchange of (components) in the field of electronic industries and for the establishment of a joint holding company that will participate in industrial projects in the two countries, such as equipment and truck manufacturing as well as steel, pipe, graphite, and cement production. Egypt will meet Libya's needs for technicians in these fields, and the Egyptian company Metalco will take part in extending a 1,000-km-long electricity grid in the Libyan Jamahiriya. [passage omitted]

Delegation Ends Visit, Departs

NC0208213391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2027 GMT
2 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Aug (MENA)—Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Strategic Industries, and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo tonight after a visit of several days. The delegation included Ibrahim Bakkar, secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice; Salim al-Harbash, secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity; and Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the General People's Committee for Communication and Transport [name and title as received]. The Libyan delegation was seen off at the airport by Industry Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahhab, Interior Minister 'Abd-al-Halim Musa, and coordinator of Egyptian-Libyan Relations Ahmad Qadhafi al-Damm. [passage omitted]

'Fundamentalists' Tried for Assassination Attempts
NC0408104491 Paris AFP in English 1014 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] CAIRO, Aug 4 (AFP) - A special Egyptian court has begun examining the cases of 27 fundamentalists accused of armed attacks on Christian jewellers as well as assassination attempts on Egyptian officials, the press reported Sunday.

The defendants are accused of attempted murder, armed robbery using explosives and weapons and assassination attempts against Egyptian public figures and police officers, the charges against them read.

They allegedly wore fake police uniforms and carried out three hold-ups of jewellery shops owned by Coptic Christians in the Shubra al-Khaymah and 'Ayn Shams districts.

They took off with 11 kilograms (24 pounds) of precious metals after trying to kill a jeweller, the reports said.

The Egyptian fundamentalists, three of whom are on the run, face death sentences or hard labor.

They are mostly members of the Al-Jihad organization and some were involved in the assassination of former president Anwar al-Sadat in October 1981, the reports said.

Opposition Denounces Threats Against Iraq

NC0208185591 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
30 Jul 91 p 6

["Text" of statement issued by leaders of Egyptian opposition parties—date not given]

[Text] The signers of this statement, representatives of Egypt's nationalist and patriotic forces, denounce the U.S. threats to use force against the people and Government of Iraq, regardless of whatever pretexts or legal niceties are used to justify them.

We are amazed at the attention that has been focused on Iraq's nuclear energy projects when other, more serious, projects in the same field—particularly those in Israel—are ignored. We believe that the complete withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait removed all justification for using force against Iraq. Valid grounds no longer exist for using or threatening to use force against Iraq, and any threats made in this vein must be retracted. We also believe that any future measures, particularly with respect to the nuclear programs, must be balanced so that the same principles apply to all parties with the same force.

We also note that the Security Council failed to implement the UN Charter when it, through Resolution 678 and the subsequent resolutions on Iraq, authorized action by the so-called coalition countries instead of establishing the UN force stipulated by the UN Charter. We believe that the United States has abused this authorization and continues to do so, and we therefore demand that this authorization be terminated and that the UN Charter be implemented.

We call upon the Security Council member states to: First, put an end to the threats being made against Iraq. Second, terminate the authorization granted to the countries allied with Kuwait. Third, ensure that the same standards are applied to all parties to the conflict in the region. We stress our opposition to the use of force against Iraq and our determination to resist any such measure.

Names in order of signing:

Ibrahim Shukri, the Labor Party; Ma'mun al-Hudaybi, the Muslim Brotherhood; Fu'ad Siraj al-Din, the Wafd Party; Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party; Khalid Muhiy-al-Din, the Grouping Party; Ahmad al-Sabahi, the Ummah Party; 'Ali-al-Din Salih, Misr al-Fatah [Young Egypt] Party; Husayn Amin Shihatah, the Egyptian Greens Party; Jamal Rabi', the Arab Party of Egypt; Farid 'Abd-al-Hakim, the Nasirite Socialist Party (in the process of foundation).

Ghali Discusses Arab Unity, U.S. Peace Efforts

PM0208094291 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
2 Aug 91 pp 26, 27

[Interview with Dr. Butrus Ghali, Egyptian deputy prime minister for foreign liaison and minister of state for emigration & Egyptians abroad affairs by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Ajjaj] We believe that inter-Arab relations in the post-Gulf crisis stage need to be reformulated, especially because some Arab parties do not want the crisis to pass without establishing new foundations for these relations. How does Egypt see the prospects for Arab relations in the coming phase?

[Ghali] We acknowledge that the Arab nation has experienced one of its most difficult periods. The greater Arab home was hit at the heart of its principles based on mutual responsibility and solidarity. Its states' confidence was shaken and their solidarity collapsed as a result of the sedition in the Gulf and the evil invasion. Because that phase represented a fateful challenge, there has been a clear and sincere Arab desire to unite and proceed toward a secure Arab future—a future that is more stable and realistic and based on the premise that the strength of one party is a strength for the other parties. As a result, Arab coherence and consensus was conspicuous at the recent Arab League meetings, in the election of its secretary general, in the Damascus declaration states' efforts, and in the formulation of stable security, political, and economic arrangements as a nucleus for a new Arab phase in which the Arab parties will transcend the negative aspects of the crisis. [passage omitted]

['Ajjaj] What is the status of relations with Sudan? Has Egypt's mediatory role between the Sudanese Government and John Garang ended, especially since other African parties have intervened?

[Ghali] There have been Egyptian contacts with the Arab states, including Jordan, Yemen, and the PLO. There have also been visits, messages, and exchanges of views regarding ways of containing the negative effects of the Gulf crisis, restoring Arab solidarity, and clearing the political atmosphere. A large part of the continuing consultations between Egypt and the other Arab states have been devoted to the peace process and the related moves and contacts. Regarding Sudan, Egypt is still concerned about Sudan's unity, territorial integrity, and the restoration of national unity to its sons in both the north and the south. Egypt is pursuing a steadfast policy toward Sudan. It has never refused any request for efforts to achieve a reconciliation between the government and the John Garang group. At the same time, we welcome any African or international efforts to this end so that unity and territorial integrity can be achieved for fraternal Sudan, and so that its people, who have been exhausted by wars and disputes, can enjoy the prosperity they deserve which is appropriate to that people's political and intellectual talents and economic potential.

[Ajjaj] Some people believe that the U.S. handling of the Gulf crisis and its adherence to international legitimacy as a framework for a solution are at odds with its handling of the Palestinian issue. Do you believe that the recent U.S. moves by Secretary of State James Baker can produce any results? How can Israel's intransigence be dealt with?

[Ghali] The U.S. Administration is making constant efforts and contacts to reactivate the peace process. Without a doubt, international legitimacy was the main victor in the Gulf war, after which there emerged a resolute international will to tackle the Middle East conflict and to work to resolve its most important issue, the Palestinian issue. We hope that the international efforts and the contacts being made will create a negotiating mechanism through the proposed peace conference which will seek a just and lasting solution to the region's problems. In the Arab-Israeli conflict there are political, historical, demographic, cultural, racial, and religious complications that require intense efforts. The region's problems cannot be resolved by U.S. efforts alone. International participation—Soviet and European, together with a UN presence at the proposed peace conference—would provide an international basis and a legitimate cover for the search for a solution acceptable to all the parties to the conflict. It is also essential that there be a true desire for peace among all parties to change the settlement policies pursued in Israel and the other negative practices which still represent a fundamental obstacle to the peace process. We hope these obstacles will be overcome through the important contacts being made. We also hope that the Israeli leadership will realize that peace is security's real pillar which should be the basis for its concept of security. It cannot obtain real security by clinging to territory. I would like to point out that the U.S. Administration is fully aware that its own vital interests and those of the states in this important region, which is the world's economic lifeline, cannot be safeguarded without the establishment of political and military stability; a solution for the crux of the conflict, namely, the Palestinian issue; the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, including Israel's nuclear weapons, from the region; and the Middle East's designation as a zone free from arms. [passage omitted]

Al-Baz Interviewed on Peace Efforts

NC2607110691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0910 GMT
26 Jul 91

[Text] London, 26 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, has said that a Middle East peace conference can be held in September or October if Israel responds to the U.S. peace proposals in the same positive way Syria did.

In a statement to the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, published in London, al-Baz said that what matters most is that the conference be held to

give impetus to the negotiations and to enhance the prospects of reaching an acceptable solution within a reasonable time frame.

He explained that if no progress is made during the conference, or if Israel insists on adopting a negative stand during the negotiations, the Arab and international parties participating in the conference will have to consider how to respond to Israeli obstruction of negotiations.

He referred to the role of the parties participating in the conference, such as, the United States, the Soviet Union, the EC representative, and the UN representative.

Al-Baz explained that Egypt's proposal to lift the Arab boycott against Israel in return for a halt to settlement activity in the occupied territories is for the specific period during which negotiations will be held.

Al-Baz said that is inconceivable that the United States would agree to finance loans to build Israeli settlements in the occupied territories while Israel is refusing to stop building these settlements during the time of the negotiations.

Asked about Palestinian participation in the negotiations, al-Baz said the inhabitants of the occupied territories should be considered first, because they are the ones who have suffered the most from the occupation. He added that Palestinians from outside the occupied territories should also participate in these negotiations.

Al-Baz said that the demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state has in no way been dropped; it is still one of the options the Palestinians can submit during the talks at any time. He said that what happened is that the talk about a final solution for the Palestinian problem has been postponed for the time being, because the Arab parties have accepted the principle of a gradual solution of the Palestinian issue.

Asked whether the PLO's position on the Gulf crisis will mean the end of this group, al-Baz explained that one cannot say that the PLO is finished. Although the PLO leadership's position greatly diminished this group's status, it must be acknowledged that the Palestinian people still consider it their sole and legitimate representative. He stressed that only the Palestinian people can end the PLO's role, and neither Israel, the United States, nor the Arab states can alter the Palestinian people's decision. He said that it is wrong for any Arab party to contemplate circumventing or ignoring the PLO or to look for an alternative Palestinian leadership.

Al-Baz said that the future status of Jerusalem is a very complicated question. He said that if Israel talks about Jewish rights in Jerusalem, it should be remembered that the Arabs have equal, if not greater, rights, from religious, spiritual, cultural, and historical points of view.

He said a creative formula could be reached under which the historical, legal, and cultural rights of the Arabs in

Jerusalem would be restored without the city's partition, in the sense that people should be able to walk through all parts of the city freely.

Al-Baz said that while the city's administration could remain united, sovereignty over it could be divided, part of it coming under Arab control. We must not forget that East Jerusalem is a part of the West Bank occupied by Israel in 1967, and therefore it should be treated as occupied territory.

Dr. al-Baz also emphasized the importance of Syria's role in achieving a peaceful settlement in the region and noted that its positive response to the U.S. peace proposals has placed the ball in Israel's court.

Concerning Lebanon's participation in the peace conference, al-Baz said that UN Security Council Resolution 425 calls for Israel's unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon and added that Lebanon therefore is not obliged to negotiate with Israel for the implementation of that decision.

Al-Baz said that, following the withdrawal, it would be in Lebanon's interest to enter into negotiations with Israel to discuss the situation on both sides of the border and review security arrangements to end the war and establish peace.

Concerning the message President Husni Mubarak recently sent to the Iraqi leadership through a third party, Dr. al-Baz revealed that the Palestinian leadership conveyed the message to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message dealt with the dangers which could befall Iraq if it did not cooperate with UN resolutions demanding that it destroy the weapons of mass destruction it possesses.

Al-Baz said that Egypt received a reply to this message through the PLO representative in Cairo.

Asked whether the Egyptian move has produced any positive results, Dr. al-Baz said that Iraq maintains that it has informed the European and U.S. sides as well as the representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the competent UN agencies that it has enabled international inspection teams to fully verify the fact that it has no covert or overt nuclear programs and it rejects any accusations to the contrary. Iraq, Dr. al-Baz added, insists that it continues to comply with UN resolutions and to provide the necessary information in this regard.

Libya

Government Responds to U.S. Treasury Measures

LD0408105191 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Aug (JANA)—The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation issued the following statement on the U.S. Treasury Department's claims concerning the Great Jamahiriya:

The U.S. Treasury Department has announced that it has banned cooperation with twelve companies described as agents in contact with the Libyan Government. It described this measure as being part of its efforts to consolidate the U.S. economic boycott on Libya. The boycott decision also included other individuals.

First: The repeated U.S. claims are nothing new and express the U.S. Administration's unwavering policy toward the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

Second: The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation draws attention to such practices which contravene international laws and norms. It calls on the international community to work toward ending the policy of U.S. hegemony over [word indistinct] countries.

Third: The Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya will not submit to U.S. pressure, believing that these [U.S.] practices contradict the objectives of the international community, which seeks to achieve cooperation in the economic, cultural and social fields.

Fourth: The claims and allegations of the United States, which tried to rely on them while taking its discriminatory measures against the Great Jamahiriya, are unfounded. Libya has repeatedly denied any links with such claims.

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives on One-Day Visit

NC0408180291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1740 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Aug (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a one-day visit to the Libyan Jamahiriya.

The visit comes as part of the constant consultations between President Mubarak and Libyan leader Mu'amar al-Qadhafi.

Welcomed by Al-Qadhafi

LD0408205891 Tripoli Libyan Television Network
in Arabic 1930 GMT 04 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriya.

An official welcome was accorded to President Husni Mubarak at Tripoli International Airport where the brother leader of the revolution led those on hand to welcome the president. Staff Major Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir were also present. [passage omitted]

President Husni Mubarak is accompanied by the following brothers: Communications and Transportation Minister Sulayman Mitwalli; Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif; Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and administrative development; Education Minister

Husayn Kamal Baha al-Din; Oil Minister Hamdi al-Bambi; Zakariyah 'Azmi, head of the President's Office; 'Usama al-Baz, first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry and head of the President's Office for political affairs; and Mamduh al-Baltaji, chairman of the General Authority for Information.

Discuss Mideast Peace Plans

NC0408195791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 4 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak held a private meeting with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi this evening. The meeting, which took place at a rest house 10 km from the Libyan capital, lasted two and a half hours.

MENA has learned that the two leaders exchanged views on the current developments in the Arab region, the ongoing efforts to push forward the peace process, and the initiatives submitted in this regard.

Colonel al-Qadhafi will give a dinner in honor of President Mubarak and his delegation tonight after which the two leaders will resume their private talks.

A third meeting between President Mubarak and Colonel al-Qadhafi will be held tomorrow morning.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Meets 'Arafat in Tunis

LD0308214291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali met this evening with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya and Fatah Central Committee member Hakam Bal'awi were also present.

The Palestinian president noted that his meeting with the president of the Republic comes in response to the latest developments in the Middle East situation, particularly the agreement between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev and their declaration on the convocation of a peace conference in October.

Mr. 'Arafat said he told the head of state about the Palestinian viewpoint concerning the [word indistinct] question and the Palestinian representation, stressing the Palestinians' total confidence in President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali at this difficult period for the Palestinian question.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat expressed his hope that these developments will be a favorable start to reaching a just and comprehensive peace in the region and finding a solution to the problem of the Palestinian people.

President Holds Talks With Baker 4 Aug

Meet in Carthage

LD0408133791 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in Tunis this afternoon on a working visit and was greeted at Tunis-Carthage international airport by Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia. At the Republic Palace in Carthage this afternoon, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received James Baker in the presence of Mohamed Jeri, minister director of the President's Office, and Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia. The audience was also attended by members of the delegation accompanying the U.S. secretary of state and the U.S. ambassador to Tunis.

Discuss Bilateral Ties

LD0508025391 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at the Republic Palace in Carthage yesterday afternoon for more than three hours of talks. [passage omitted]

The official spokesman for the Republic's Presidency said that the meeting between his excellency the president and the U.S. delegation was cordial and frank. The U.S. secretary of state conveyed to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali President George Bush's greetings, his friendship, and the good impression he has of the state visit President Ben Ali made to Washington in May 1990. The talks covered relations between the two countries, the scope of their development, and efforts to arrive at a peaceful solution to Mideast problems and the Palestinian question. The U.S. secretary of state affirmed the United States' determination to work to promote bilateral relations so that they may respond to what was agreed upon during President Ben Ali's visit to Washington. [passage omitted]

The official spokesman said that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali reiterated Tunisia's firm stand on the Palestinian issue and affirmed previously expressed positions, particularly Tunisia's satisfaction with and support for President Bush's initiative and Tunisia's support for any effort that would guarantee a peaceful, just, comprehensive, and lasting solution to all the region's problems. The president expressed the hope that it will be possible to do everything to make the peace conference successful and reaffirmed the Arab Maghreb's possible role in giving momentum to Middle East peace. James Baker held a news conference in which he expressed the U.S. wish to see Tunisian-U.S. relations take on a new, positive direction and return to the clarity they had before the Gulf war. [passage omitted]

After pointing out that bilateral relations had cooled somewhat during the Gulf war, James Baker expressed his conviction that the time is now ripe for the two

countries to overcome this circumstantial obstacle and to give their relations a fresh start. He expressed his pleasure that his Tunisia visit provided the opportunity to take off on this course, and he emphasized that the United States intends to resume its aid to Tunisia. [passage omitted]

Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia attended the news conference.

Commentary Sees 'Opportunity' in Visit

LD0408083291 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will be arriving in Tunis later today on a brief working visit during which he will meet with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and his Tunisian counterpart Habib Ben Yahia.

This visit has special significance, given the developments and dynamism currently observed in the international and the Arab scenes toward finding a solution to the Middle East problem, as well as the current international circumstances and climate. This visit presents an opportunity for Tunisia, which has acquired a special position of international influence due to its wise and composed stance on all international problems and issues, to express its opinion on events of particular interest to the Palestinian problem and the Middle East dispute.

It is not strange to see the U.S. Administration insisting on the need for Tunisia, which houses the headquarters of the Palestinian leadership, and the rest of the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] member states to participate in the current Middle East peace process. This follows head of state Ben Ali's recent interview with LE MONDE in which he urged the need for participation by AMU countries in the peace process, given their firm stance on the Palestinian problem and the role they have been playing for the sake of this just Arab cause.

Western Sahara

'Massive' Moroccan Attack on West Sahara Town

LD0408231991 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 2200 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] [Word indistinct] the Moroccan Air Force waged a massive attack this morning on the Saharan town of Tifariti, in northeastern Western Sahara, very close to the Mauritanian border. The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front communique this evening announcing the operation points out that the town is situated exactly 100 km from the Moroccan defense wall. There are no details on damage. No casualties nor a death toll have been announced.

The Polisario Front communique released this evening calls the international community and the UN secretary general and his representative to the spot as witnesses. The communique adds that the Polisario is quite willing to minimize the event and consider it as being an isolated incident.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Marks Anniversary of Invasion

LD0308172591 London KUNA in Arabic 1043 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 3 Aug (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, reaffirmed that through the unjust aggression against Kuwait, the Iraqi regime meant to "paralyze its economy, steal its natural resources, and destroy its prosperity and the comfort of its society."

In a speech he delivered at the oration festival held at the Sabah al-Salim Theater in al-Khalidiyah today to commemorate the first anniversary of the sinful Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, his highness stressed that "the aggressor's withdrawal from Kuwait does not mean the end of aggression, that our victory in the battle of liberation is not the end of our war against the violating enemy, and that the battle will not end until all the enemy's evil plots against our beloved homeland have been thwarted."

He emphasized that the sinful aggressor "meant to wipe out Kuwait as an independent sovereign state, to obliterate its national character and identity, to expel its people by evicting them from their homes and from the land of their fathers and forefathers and by settling his agents in their place."

Following is the text of the speech by Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim, heir apparent and prime minister at the oration rally marking the first annual anniversary of the treacherous Iraqi invasion of the State of Kuwait.

In the name of God, the merciful and the compassionate. Praise be to God, lord of the worlds, and prayers and peace be upon our master Muhammad, the last of prophets and the most honorable messengers. God defends those who believe, God abhors the perfidious and the infidel. God has spoken the truth.

Brothers and sisters, loyal people of Kuwait, honorable brothers in Arabism and Islam, honorable guests, we meet today not to celebrate but to remember. Remembrance is useful to the faithful. We remember betrayal, treason, collusion, ungratefulness, injustice, aggression, unfairness, and tyranny. We remember the thousands of tanks led by blind hatred to invade aggressively our small, peaceful country. We remember the hundreds of aircraft unleashed by the desires of evil and greed to the horror of our women and children, to spread death and destruction in our homes and localities. We remember the warships driven by arrogance and megalomania to aggress on us and to sow destruction in our waters.

We remember the armies which the Arabs contributed to mobilize and participate in the liberation of the usurped land of Arabism and to recover its usurped sanctities only to find out that it occupied the land of Kuwait and ravaged it—violating honor, desecrating sanctities, shedding blood, robbing, plundering, oppressing and killing.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister added:

We remember the young children they killed in front of their families and relatives. We remember the pious and faithful youth they took from the houses of God to torture, severing their limbs. Death would have been a mercy for them. We remember all that they have done to the people of Kuwait in terms of humiliation, oppression, and displacement, for no reason except that they were sincere in their love and loyalty to their homeland, refused to cooperate with the aggressors, and resisted the occupation and defended their land, honor, and dignity.

We remember the methods of torture, the mention of which is bloodcurdling and shameful to humanity. We remember the millions of mines and explosives they planted in every inch of our land and water, in our schools and hospitals, in our parks, homes, and streets. Their regular explosions are still killing and maiming men, women, and children. We remember the hundreds of oil wells and installations they destroyed and set on fire out of hatred and criminality to deny us our sole source of revenue.

We remember all of this, and we ask—and the whole world joins us—Are these the ways of Arabs? Are these the traits of Islam? Are these the qualities of men? Are these the deeds of humans?

We remember 2 August. We remember the evil aggression. The following generations will always remember it, not by tears or weeping but by a hatred of aggression and a determination to fight injustice and tyranny. They will draw lessons and experiences and affirm the everlasting truth: Lies are bound to be defeated and truth is bound to be victorious.

His Highness also said: We remember the aggression in order to affirm that although the evil aggressor had occupied our land, he was unable to occupy our will or subjugate our determination. The entire people of Kuwait stood united—men, women, old, young, and children—rejecting the aggression and resisting it with every means and in every field until God honored us with victory and the sun of freedom rose on our pure land and the ugly occupation withdrew. The evil aggressor was gone and Kuwait remained and will remain lofty, free, dignified, and independent. Kuwaitis will remain its kinfolk and its sons and its banner will remain hoisted with the power of God.

Brothers and sisters, sons of our dear country, we meet today to remember our dutiful martyrs who sacrificed their lives as offerings to our cherished homeland. They wrote with their pure blood eternal pages of heroism and glory in the defense of our benevolent land. May God bestow his great compassion on them and house them in the paradise of eternity with the early martyrs, companions, and good men.

Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of their God.

And you, our heroic martyrs, let immortality, perpetuity, appreciation, and glorification be yours. Your sacrifices will remain a torch to light, for our dear homeland, the path of honor, freedom and sovereignty and will be an example to be followed by future generations in the love of our dear Kuwait and in the sacrifice for it and defending its independence.

We pledge before God, before our people, and before ourselves that we will not forget you, O our martyrs, we will not ignore your obligations to care for your children and families. No harm or unfairness will ever touch them, with God's help.

We also remember our sons the prisoners of war, the missing and the detainees, whom the treacherous aggressor insists on detaining unjustifiably. Their absence constitutes a cloud of sorrow overshadowing our life and creating constant concern. We are pained for their absence and suffer for their suffering. We will not keep silent about the Iraqi regime's procrastination in releasing them. We will intensify our efforts at all Arab, regional, and international organizations and bodies to ensure their return. We will continue to exert our utmost efforts to speed up their release, and our minds will not be at rest until they safely and shortly return, God willing.

Brothers and sisters, loyal sons of Kuwait, the departure of the aggressors from our land does not mean the end of the aggression. Our victory in the battle of liberation is not the end of our war with the usurper aggressor. The battle will not end until the evil schemes of the enemy against our homeland and our people are foiled.

The evil aggressor wanted to eradicate the entity of Kuwait as an independent sovereign state and abolish its national personality and character. The evil aggressor wanted to destroy our national unity and our internal front and crush our society into quarreling factions and warring parties to facilitate the implementation of its evil aims against our country and our people. The evil aggressor wanted to empty Kuwait of its people. It resorted to evicting them from their land, the land of their fathers and forefathers, to replace them with intruders from its agency and lackies.

The evil aggressor wanted to obliterate Kuwait's cultural features, demolish the culture, thought, science and arts, the light of which was shining beyond the boundaries of Kuwait.

The evil aggressor wanted to paralyze our national economy, plunder our natural resources, and destroy the progress of our country and the prosperity of our society.

Those, brothers and sisters, were the schemes of the evil aggressor and the objectives of its treacherous aggression. We must not rely on its defeat or be satisfied by its

defeat and departure from our land. Its evil schemes are still going on and its treacherous aggression still exists. We must not let our minds rest until we foil these schemes and thwart those objectives.

We must all cooperate to remove the effects of the abominable aggression from our country and to reconstruct what it destroyed of our utilities and installations. We must all work to establish security and stability firmly in our country and to purge it of the enemy's agents, the affliction of occupation and displacement.

The will of God has chosen you to be the generation which received God's grace of victory and liberation, and to be the generation of building and construction. History has registered for you the best examples of steadfastness, heroism, and sacrifice. You have all struggled for our dear Kuwait. You have all participated in the battle for liberation.

History will record that you were the generation that buckled down to the job and rose to eradicate the effects of the aggression to rebuild its country and to raise the foundations of its progress. You are the generation that stood together solidly during the difficulties and tribulations, reinforcing each other.

Brothers and sisters of my homeland, we have confronted and defeated aggression. We confronted falsehood and were victorious. The whole world stood in support of us and our just cause.

Here is Kuwait now, thanks be to God, free, dignified, and independent. There is the evil aggressor overtaken by calamity. Let us look to the future with full confidence and optimism and move forward with all determination and courage. Let us all cooperate to build our beloved Kuwait's culture and glory.

Our successful march will go from victory to victory, with the help of God, and under the leadership of the patron of our renaissance, his highness the amir, may God protect him.

Peace be upon you and God's compassion and blessings.

Finance Minister on Gold Recovery, Compensation

LD0408194791 London KUNA in Arabic 1534 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait City, 4 Aug (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Finance Minister Nasir 'Abdallah al-Ridan said here today that representatives from Kuwait's central bank are currently in 'Ar'ar, Saudi Arabia, to recover the gold stolen by the Iraqi regime from the safes of Kuwait's central bank during the occupation of the State of Kuwait.

In a statement to the press following a cabinet meeting, he said that recovery of the gold ingots will begin tomorrow, Monday, and will continue for a few days, in accordance with the agreement between the United Nations and the Iraqi regime on the return of Kuwaiti possessions stolen by Iraq, including gold ingots.

He explained that cash dispensations and foreign transfers at commercial banks were carried out in "a very normal" manner yesterday after the central bank waved all restrictions imposed on disbursing and transfers following the liberation of the State of Kuwait.

He added that a great number of citizens and residents yesterday renewed their fixed deposits at local banks, thus expressing faith in the Kuwaiti banking system.

He reaffirmed that the waving of bank restrictions and regulations did not have a negative impact on the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar due to its strength and link with the currency market.

He pointed out that all these indicators confirm the strength of the Kuwaiti dinar and that the Kuwaiti banking system gives depositors several advantages, as Kuwait is the only country in the world that protects the rights of depositors.

He boasted that interest rates on Kuwaiti dinar deposits are at 8.5 percent annually, which exceeds U.S. dollar deposits, for example.

In his reply to a question on the withdrawn dinar, the minister warned that anyone who speculates using the withdrawn dinar will bear responsibility for his actions, as the law withdrawing certain bank notes from circulation is irreversible.

As regards the Kuwaiti Government's intention to borrow money from foreign markets, Minister al-Ridan said that this would not affect the strength of the Kuwaiti dinar since borrowing would take place according to well-studied bases and criteria. He pointed out that despite the amir's issuance of a decree on raising the ceiling of the borrowing allowed for the Finance Ministry to 10 billion Kuwaiti dinars, corresponding to \$33 billion, the Kuwaiti Government does not intend to borrow the maximum allowed.

As regards the payment of damages to Kuwaiti citizens, the minister indicated that every citizen who suffered losses as a result of the tyrannical Iraqi invasion could apply to the committee on compensation, which was set up by an amiri decree to demand that the Iraqi regime pay damages for the losses it inflicted upon the citizens.

It is worth recalling that according to UN resolutions, Iraq is obligated to pay damages to the states that suffered losses as a result of its tyrannical aggression on Kuwait. The damages are to be paid with 30 percent of Iraq's oil revenues.

Al-Ridan also expressed his belief that the proposals made at the Kuwaiti National Assembly on the payment of financial damages to every Kuwaiti family were "numerous and very costly."

He added, however, that the government was examining these proposals with a view to compensating only the families that suffered losses.

Bank Governor Notes End of Monetary Restrictions

LD0308184191 London KUNA in Arabic 1644 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 3 August, KUNA—Shaykh Salim 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sabah, governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait, has said that it is unlikely that the lifting of all types of restrictions and banking controls concerning deposits and withdrawals—which were made necessary due to the circumstances arising from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait—scheduled to take effect today, would obstruct the process of economic activity in Kuwait. [passage omitted]

In an interview with the Kuwaiti AL-QABAS published today, Shaykh Salim said that no country provided full security for the funds deposited in its banks except for Kuwait, and that never in the history of banking had an occupied country secured funds deposited in its banks. Moreover, it allowed for full interest on them. [passage omitted]

The Central Bank governor revealed that the total deposits of the private sector—Kuwaitis and residents—amounted to 4.8 billion Kuwaiti dinars. These are private funds which do not include end of service compensations to be paid to residents. He said that contrary to an expected drop in deposits, the total of deposits last month was surprisingly very high, reflecting the ability of Kuwaiti banks to fulfill their commitments to clients immediately on demand and without government support.

Red Cross Reports on Expulsions to Iraq

LD0408104691 Bern Swiss Radio International
in English 1000 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] The All-Swiss International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] [words indistinct] Kuwait has expelled about 1,000 people to Iraq over the past month.

The head of the ICRC delegation in Kuwait said the total number of expulsions was difficult to determine because the organization has only been allowed to monitor the expulsions since the beginning of July. (Christophe Giraud) said cooperation between the ICRC and the Kuwaiti authorities was now good after they reached an agreement that ICRC delegates could visit people threatened with expulsion. He said he expected the Kuwaiti authorities to continue expelling people from the emirate at a similar rate for at least another month.

Oman

Libyan Envoy Arrives With al-Qadhafi Message

JN0408192791 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1910 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Muscat, 4 Aug (WAKH)—Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, inspector general of the Libyan Armed Forces,

arrived in Muscat this evening on a visit to the Sultanate of Oman as part of his tour of several Arab states.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY reported that al-Kharrubi is carrying a message for Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Message From al-Qadhdhafi

LD0308164991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1618 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 3 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, has received a message from Libyan President Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi. The message was delivered by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council [as received] and inspector general, when the custodian of the two holy mosques received him at his office today. [passage omitted]

Col. Mustafa al-Kharrubi arrived in Jeddah earlier today. [passage omitted]

Saudi, Algerian Foreign Ministers Leave for ICO

LD0308103691 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0943 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 3 Aug (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, and His Excellency Lakdhar Brahimi, Algerian foreign minister, left Jeddah this morning for Istanbul to attend the 20th conference of the Islamic Conference Organization foreign ministers which opens later today. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Bank of Credit and Commerce Name Changed

JN0308195591 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates
Radio Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces, in his capacity as deputy ruler of the Abu Dhabi Emirate, today issued a law amending the name of the Bank of Credit and Commerce in the United Arab Emirates [name as heard], to the National Union Bank [Bank al-Ittihad al-Watani].

In a second clause, the law stipulates the bank's commitment to the new name, including all existing rights and duties related to the Bank of Credit and Commerce, the United Arab Emirates, prior to the name change, and annuls all statutes that contravene the provisions of this law.

President Zayid Bin-Sultan Returns to Abu Dhabi

JN0508063191 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0545 GMT
5 Aug 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 4 Aug (WAKH)—UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan returned to Abu Dhabi tonight following a private visit to Europe and Morocco.

His Highness Shaykh Zayid met with Moroccan King Hassan II during his visit to Rabat.

Republic of Yemen

Salih Receives Libyan, al-Qadhdhafi Message

JN0408201391 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network
in Arabic 1703 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received brother Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Revolution Command Council, inspector general of the Armed Forces in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahir-iyah, and envoy of Libyan President Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, in his office today. Al-Kharrubi conveyed to the brother president a message from his brother Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, leader of Libya's 1 September revolution, dealing with developments of concern to our Arab nation and the ongoing efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere and restore Arab solidarity. The message also deals with the Libyan proposals and efforts to achieve comprehensive Arab unity, as well as with the fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

The brother president declared his support and gave his blessing to any pan-Arab effort aimed at achieving Arab unity. He said he supported the Arab union plan presented by sisterly Libya as a step embodying the Arabs' aspirations to achieve unity. He also stated that our country supports all efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere, reinforce the march of Arab solidarity, pool the nation's resources, and strengthen its capabilities.

The meeting was attended by brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, member of the Presidential Council; Mujahid Abu-Shawarib, deputy prime minister for internal affairs; and the charge d'affaires at the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Sanaa.

The Libyan official left Sanaa this evening.

Reports on Tours by International Inspection Team

JN0208100991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0842 GMT
2 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Aug (INA)—INA's science editor has asked the head of the Iraqi counterpart to the fourth international nuclear inspection team about the team's activities over the past two days. The head of the Iraqi team said:

A group from the fourth international inspection team visited the al-Tarmiyah nuclear site. It toured the buildings and laboratories at the site and met with personnel there and held extensive discussions with them. Another group visited and toured the al-Athir Center for Materials Production and Development, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and situated in al-Musayyab. The staff there explained to the team the objectives and duties of the center and the services it offers to industry, universities, and other interested parties.

The head of the Iraqi team said that various groups from the international team met with their Iraqi counterparts to discuss issues related to the Iraqi nuclear program and nuclear materials, a list of which Iraq has given to the International Atomic Energy Agency. Some of the team members also visited other sites that were visited on previous occasions by other inspection teams.

The head of the Iraqi team asserted that the head of the international team has expressed full satisfaction with the serious cooperation the team has received from the Iraqi side and with the information it was given to enable it to complete its mission. The statements made by the head of the international team were reported by international news agencies the day before yesterday.

2-3 Aug Activities

JN0408192491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—INA has learned that on Friday, 2 August, the fourth international nuclear inspection team visited the al-Musayyib thermal electricity generator and the al-Dawrah plant and met with teams engaged in reconstruction works on the two sites.

The agency learned that Saturday, 3 August, was also a busy day for the team. It carried out an inventory of the nuclear items against the list it received on 27 July. It also familiarized itself with the nonnuclear uses of uranium and with examples of such uses.

For this purpose, the team met with the engineers in charge at the facilities. They explained to the team the experiments and tests they performed within the nonnuclear uses of uranium.

The team also saw the capacitors that were manufactured by Iraqi industry and displayed by President Saddam Husayn last spring. They ascertained that these

capacitors are used in the laser devices used by higher education students. The team visited other facilities in the al-Za'faraniyah region.

The team concluded its activities for 3 August by attending a session of scientific dialogue that lasted more than three hours and dealt with Iraqi scientists' work in the field of uranium enrichment using the methods Iraq has made public.

The team's discussions were very useful. Through their detailed answers to the team's questions, the Iraqi technicians gave team members an accurate and comprehensive explanation of the enrichment program, its objectives and dimensions.

INA also learned that the team left Baghdad this morning for Mosul on a two-day visit.

Biological Inspection Team

JN0508074591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

On 2 August 1991, the biological [al-biyuluji] inspection team appointed by the special committee in accordance with part C of Resolution 678/1991 arrived in the country.

The Iraqi side and the inspection team held a meeting on the evening of the same day in which the Iraqi side explained its readiness to cooperate fully, provide all the necessary explanations, and answer any additional queries to complement information presented earlier through correspondence regarding technical information and detailed lists on the biological materials and activities for various purposes inside the country.

In this evening session, they affirmed what was reported in our message in response to the letter from the special committee of 14 March 1991 regarding the nonexistence of a central research laboratory for military biological purposes.

However, the Iraqi side informed the inspection team of the existence of research work regarding the biological factors for military purposes in one of the locations within a general research center which does other research work.

The Iraqi side also affirmed that Iraq completely halted this biological research work in the spring of 1990 when it anticipated the possibility of an aggression on it. It also affirmed the nonexistence of any biological activity for military purposes, or any biological weapons or instruments at all.

During the two days after this meeting, the inspection team visited the abovementioned location.

The Iraqi side presented all the clarifications and lists that were asked of it. It was also very cooperative in all ways to facilitate the team's mission.

On the evening of the second day of the visit, a meeting was held with the representatives of the Ministries of Health and Agriculture to get clarifications about biological activities which fall under the realm of these two ministries.

Foreign Ministry Source on Chemical Material

JN0308112891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1057 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—A responsible Foreign Ministry source has refuted the deliberate distortion by Western news agencies of statements made by Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the special UN committee charged with supervising the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 687, to the effect that the international inspection teams have found four to five times the quantity of chemical [al-kimyawiyah] raw material declared by Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the source said this deliberate distortion of the statements by Ambassador Ekeus is part of the unfair campaign by Western media to cast doubt on Iraq's cooperation with the special UN committee and find pretexts to launch a new aggression and continue the economic blockade against its people.

Following is the text of the statement made by the Iraqi source:

On 30 July 1991, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus, executive chairman of the special UN committee charged with implementing Paragraph 8-C of Resolution 687, stated that the clarifications submitted to the UN special committee raised the quantity of the chemical war materials to four to five times the quantity declared by the first Iraqi statement. Western media have deliberately distorted Ambassador Ekeus' statements. They claimed that the inspection teams found four to five times the quantity of the chemical raw material declared by Iraq.

To state the facts as they are, we say that on 18 April 1991, Iraq submitted a list of the materials included in Paragraph C of Resolution 687, including the chemical raw material, which was collected expeditiously with the emphasis on counting the important material at that time. After the Iraqi parties made a complete inventory of all this material, including large quantities of less important and less hazardous raw material, when certain military installations where this substance was stored became accessible after being purged of mines and the effects of the aggressive bombardment, the responsible Iraqi quarters submitted on 16 May 1991 a comprehensive list of the chemical raw material, which was actually four to five times the quantity listed in the first announcement before the visit to Iraq by the first chemical inspection team—the visit that took place from 9 to

14 June 1991. During its visit, the team did not find anything to contradict the Iraqi announcements.

On the contrary, the inspection team emerged with impressions which it noted in its press statement issued at the end of the inspection. The statement noted that the relevant Iraqi authorities were fully cooperative with the inspection team, that the team did not verify the existence of any undeclared activities, and that it found no indication that Iraq deliberately tried to mislead the mission.

This deliberate distortion of Ekeus' statements is part of the unjust campaign launched by the Western mass media which, by casting doubts about Iraq's cooperation with the special committee, aims to find justifications for launching a fresh aggression against Iraq and maintaining the economic blockade imposed on its people. This campaign also aims to peddle new UN Security Council resolutions to impose custodianship on the people of Iraq and harm Iraq's sovereignty and independence.

Partial Lifting of Economic Blockade Rejected

Foreign Minister Comments

JN0308205291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2012 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn has spelled out Iraq's reasons for rejecting the present draft of the French proposal now pending before the UN Security Council calling for a partial lifting of the inequitable economic sanctions against the Iraqi people. In a statement to INA, the minister said:

Following the comprehensive report Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the executive commissioner of the UN secretary general, submitted to the Security Council on 15 July warning about the risk of a disaster and about the unpredictable effects the continued blockade in force for over a year would have on the Iraqi people; and following his assertions that the United Nations is in no position to provide the required assistance, Aga Khan proposed that Iraq finance its food, medicine, and other basic civilian needs out of its own national sources; this could be done, he said, by allowing Iraq to sell its oil on the world market.

Following the presentation of this field report and other earlier reports released by various international and humanitarian bodies warning about the spread of epidemics and about severe malnutrition owing to the depletion of Iraq's strategic stockpile of food and medicine, the allies, led by the U.S. Administration, France, and Britain, have come under mounting pressure from world public opinion and various humanitarian bodies. They gave statements to the media purporting to profess concern for the lives of the children, women, and elderly of Iraq, and shedding crocodile tears over the intense suffering caused by the sustained blockade, which they have had to endure through no fault of their own.

The foreign minister said: The aggressors, who were responsible for imposing the unjust blockade and creating difficulties and pain for our people, tried to dissociate themselves from their moral and human responsibilities and resorted to a despicable and blatant game aimed at separating the masses from their leadership and nationalist regime. They realized that our steadfast people's awareness and long militant experience are too firm to allow these mean colonialist tricks and deceptions to pass.

The minister said that within the division of labor among the hostile camp's partners, the Paris government has been assigned the task of presenting a suspect, sugar-coated draft resolution which pretends to serve human values but which in fact smacks of spite against all the noble and generous traits of our people who are accustomed to eating their bread with dignity and who have been sacrificing their nearest and dearest to maintain this dignity.

Mr. Ahmad Husayn added that the French blueprint compromises Iraq's national sovereignty, mortgages its independent free will, and imposes foreign tutelage over the Iraqi people. It also usurps prerogatives and responsibility from the legitimate government for the welfare of its citizens and for ensuring their livelihood, security, and dignity.

The foreign minister emphasized that the French draft resolution is a ill-intentioned attempt to bypass the report of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan and to empty it of humanitarian content, inasmuch as the latter urges the international community to take the urgent measures necessary to save the lives and fate of a nation and to stave off the famine and disease hanging over Iraqi children, women, and elderly.

The minister made it clear that the French draft in essence mixes Iraq's need for food and medicine and other civil requirements on the one hand and the defrayment of other UN activities entailed by the implementation of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 687 of 1991. Moreover, it bypasses the resolution's provision for Iraq's right to import foodstuffs, medicine, and other civilian goods without any trusteeship or interference. This is in addition to the fact that the mechanism proposed by the French draft resolution is saddled by an extremely complex routine and burdened with arbitrary conditions and impractical and demeaning measures so as to make it impossible to promote the humanitarian goal sought by Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan's humane and moving report.

Replying to allegations by hostile quarters on the use of Iraqi oil revenues and the distribution of food and medicine purchased from these Iraqi revenues, the foreign minister said it is clear that the funds used to purchase food and medicine are Iraqi funds, not charity or donations from anyone. The United Nations or any other member state can ascertain through simple methods that Iraq will allocate the returns of its oil sales

abroad to purchasing urgent basic needs for the people, primarily their daily food, baby milk, and medications. As for the distribution of these materials, the state, using its big agencies and capabilities, has adopted a fair distribution system that ensures basic food materials to all citizens throughout Iraq according on an equal quota system and at reasonable, subsidized prices to ease the people's burdens because of the hike in prices, which was largely caused by the economic blockade.

Ahmad Husayn concluded: The French draft resolution currently being discussed at the Security Council seeks to achieve suspect political objectives in the name of humanity. It also adopts impossible conditions so as to cause outrage and disturbance, capitalizing on our people's suffering as a result of the unjust economic blockade employed by the U.S.-Atlantic alliance as an ugly economic weapon to complete its military aggression and its extortionist political pressures and deceptive media and psychological war.

The present formula of the French draft resolution, he added, aims at controlling the destiny of the Iraqi people and their national resources, imposing foreign tutelage on a sovereign country, and interfering in its domestic affairs, contrary to the UN Charter. Iraq has rejected this French formula and called on the Security Council member states, through its ongoing contacts with them, to change the formula so as to achieve the humanitarian objective behind the UN secretary general's call to partially lift the economic blockade on the Iraqi people.

Trade Minister on French Resolution

JN0308151991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1400 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih has described the French draft resolution to partially lift the unjust economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people as an attempt to encroach upon Iraq's national sovereignty and a flagrant interference in its internal affairs conflicting with UN charters and laws.

At a news conference today attended by correspondents of Arab and foreign television networks and news agencies, local newspapers, and INA, the minister said that the French draft resolution submitted to the UN Security Council conflicts even with the limits allowed by the previous UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Iraqi people's basic needs.

The minister stressed that Iraq rejected the French draft resolution, especially since it mortgages the Iraqi people's will, interferes in the determination of food and medicine purchases, and is unclear about the distribution of commodities to Iraqi citizens. The minister noted that all Iraqis, Arabs, and foreigners from all walks of life and locations are covered equally by the supply card distribution system. The minister pointed out that all Arabs and foreigners, including diplomatic missions in

Iraq, are covered by the supply card system, and that supplies are offered to them from the free market on a regular and equal basis.

He said that the food quota system is being applied through authorized agents in all Iraqi areas. These agents number 33,951 for foodstuffs and 14,872 for flour alone. He noted that during July, the ministry apportioned food for 20.203 million people, including Arab and foreign diplomatic missions and non-Iraqis. He added that the state subsidizes all the foodstuffs given to the public with low prices compared with those in the local market, which suffers from a sharp shortage as a result of the year-long economic blockade.

The minister stressed that the distribution of foodstuffs in accordance with the supply card is a direct result of the inhuman economic blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He noted that those who are behind this draft resolution had better lift the economic blockade in full so the market system can once again supply citizens with the basic foodstuffs, instead of bragging about and capitalizing on human rights.

Following the news conference, Arab and foreign correspondents, accompanied by the trade minister, visited the foodstuffs distribution centers in Baghdad, acquainted themselves with the progress in the supply process, and questioned the workers, the general public, and the agents about delivery dates and prices.

Peace Conference Said Aimed at Disarming Syria

JN0408102691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0827 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH affirms that the announcement of Syria's unconditional acceptance to attend "a peace conference" reflects a preconceived plan aimed at disarming Syria.

In a study entitled "Has the Scenario for Disarming Syria Begun To Unfold?" by writer Muhsin Khalil published today, the paper adds that Israel, in light of the regional balance of power which tilts in its favor, will insist on disarming Syria. The paper stresses that if its current pressures and the hostile media campaign against Damascus fail, Tel Aviv will create problems with an eye toward implementing scenarios aimed at disarming Syria.

The paper goes on to say that the U.S. and Israeli determination to disarm Syria has its plausible justifications, according to the U.S.-Israeli perspective. The paper notes: By virtue of its geographic location, Syria is an Arab country that could possess all the ingredients for a military confrontation with Israel, if certain elements become available. These ingredients of confrontation could inflict the gravest damage on Israel—a damage which Israel might be unable to avoid or endure.

The paper asserts that the other motives for disarming Syria are numerous. Some of these motives include the

following: The United States is not Syria's arms supplier for major weapons systems; there exists a fairly good diversity in Syria's arms supply sources; and Syria has a domestic arms industry, including some significant and developed weapons systems, the paper adds. Hence, there are fears that Syria's political position might change in the future under the current regime or under a new one. If such a thing happens, Syria's possession of these weapons could pose problems, the paper says.

The paper explains that Israel would not have agreed to attend a peace conference had no agreement been reached between Israel and the United States and Syria to remove or control Syrian weapons, or to rearm Syria from the United States with Saudi or Gulf financing.

Concluding, the paper says that if Syria refuses to respond to this Israeli condition, it will be faced with either the suspension of Tel Aviv's approval of the peace conference unless Syria is disarmed, or with the derailment of negotiations, after which Syria would have recognized Israel without a thing in return, abolished the boycott, admitted inability to retake the Golan Heights, and implicitly or explicitly approved Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem and the confiscation of the Palestinian people's right to statehood.

Memo to UN on U.S. 2-3 Aug Air Activity

JN0408163591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Iraq has once again protested to the United Nations U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace for surveillance and provocation purposes.

In a memorandum to the UN secretary general today, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations noted that U.S. air activity in Iraqi airspace for 2 and 3 August 1991 totaled 22 air sorties made up of one four-plane formation, seven two-plane formations, and four individual sorties.

He added that the air activity concentrated over Dahuk, al-'Amadiyah, north of Mosul, Irbil, and Qal'at Dizah, with the aircraft flying at speeds ranging between 700 to 900 km per hour.

Information Minister Meets Soviet Parliamentarian

JN0308104391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Aug (INA)—Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information, today met with Yevgeniy Kogan, chairman of the Soviet parliamentary bloc Soyuz, who is currently on a visit to Iraq.

The meeting, which was attended by Mr. Rodyak, director general of the independent radio and television network Hope, discussed aspects of media cooperation between the two parties and ways of improving it.

Soviet Delegation Departs

JN0408191391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1833 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 4 Aug (INA)—The delegation of the Soviet Soyuz parliamentary bloc of the Supreme Soviet Presidium led by Yevgeniy Kogan left Baghdad tonight after a four-day visit at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly.

In a statement to INA, Yevgeniy Kogan praised the high morale of the Iraqi people and their determination to rebuild what the aggression destroyed, despite the economic blockade imposed on them. He said that the Soyuz bloc will launch a campaign to acquaint the Soviet public with the destruction the aggression inflicted on civil and service installations.

Yevgeniy Kogan declared that the Soyuz bloc parliamentarians were determined to continue effective efforts through the Supreme Soviet Presidium to get the economic blockade imposed on Iraq lifted and to organize mobilization and media campaigns throughout the Soviet republics to support the people of Iraq. [passage omitted]

Baghdad Television To Begin Third Program 1 Aug

JN0408092691 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic
31 Jul 91 p 10

[Text] Iraqi Television will launch its Third Program as of tomorrow, Thursday [1 August], in a daily morning transmission between 0900 and 1230. The program will include a variety of features and programs addressing all members of the family. ALIF BA' will publish the details of the Third Program as of next week.

Embezzlement in Justice Ministry Reported

JN0408094391 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic
31 Jul 91 p 10

[Text] The Financial Control Office has declared that financial embezzlement in the various departments of the Justice Ministry amounted to 2,246,899 dinars in 1990. The report indicates that of this amount, 1,240,712 dinars have been recovered.

The control office declared that the report was issued upon instructions and orders from President Saddam Husayn, with the aim of acquainting the people with the results that have been reached by the office to promote the democratic march in Iraq, and to upgrade the performance level of state departments in terms of efficiency and economic competency.

Cabinet Votes in Favor of U.S. Peace Initiative

TA0408102491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1015 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet has voted in favor of the U.S. initiative. Sixteen ministers voted in favor and three against—Sharon, Ze'evi, and Ne'eman. Ministers currently out of the country—Moda'i and Magen—left behind letters saying that they support the proposal. Only Minister Yitzhaq Peretz did not participate in the meeting, although he is in the country. It is not known whether he is vacationing.

Shamir-Sharon Clash Reported

TA0408125991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1200 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister Ari'el Sharon had a serious verbal clash in today's cabinet session, in which the positive response to the U.S. peace initiative was approved.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Sharon lashed out at the prime minister and the negotiating team, saying: Shamir has been conducting an after-me-the-deluge policy. The negotiating team has been extremely amateurish. It has made unnecessary concessions that are harmful to the State of Israel.

Minister Arye Der'i intervened, saying that Sharon's allegations were of a personal nature and irrelevant. He noted: What we have been experiencing this past year is divine intervention; there is no other explanation for the developments. The prime minister responded: There is no doubt that divine intervention has been on our side. Turning to Sharon, Shamir said: I am not frightened by personal attacks on me, attacks that apparently stem from unbridled lust for power.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1130 GMT on 4 August reports: "Prime Minister Shamir made what was called an emotional speech at today's cabinet session. He explained that all the steps he had taken were compatible with the government's basic guidelines. Shamir said that the present move helped enhance Israel's glory. The prime minister also called on the opposing ministers to support the political process."

[At 1230 GMT, Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew adds: "Foreign Minister David Levi said in the cabinet session that it is not Israel that is saying yes to Baker, but Baker who is saying yes to Israel. It is not the Arabs, but rather the conditions, that have changed. Israel's positions have been accepted, and reasonable conditions have been created for the opening of negotiations."

[Defense Minister Moshe Arens stressed the hardships of the political campaign we are waging. He said: In the Middle East, even a peace conference does not necessarily lead to peaceful relations, but we must go to negotiations. We are strong and we can conduct those negotiations."]

The cabinet approved the positive answer to the United States, with 16 ministers voting in favor and three ministers voting against. At the end of the cabinet session, Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya told our correspondent Yo'el Nir that the Likud apparently has no qualms about ceding the Golan Heights, and he cannot see Tehiya's being part of a government that negotiates territorial concessions. The Tehiya Central Committee will convene on Wednesday, 7 August, to decide when to quit the government.

In contrast, Minister Rehav'am Ze'evi stated that Moledet would remain in the government and would not entrust the negotiations to what he termed defeatist elements. Ze'evi demands that Israel raise five conditions in the peace conference: denunciation of terror and the intifadah, freedom for Syria's Jews to leave, assistance with the location of MIA's, compensation for Jewish property in the Arab countries, and a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

Here are the reactions of other ministers as they emerged from the cabinet session: Minister Moshe Qatzav said that the main obstacles are still ahead of us, but noted that Israel is entering the political process with what he termed not bad opening positions. Minister Ehud Olmert said: Expectations and hopes should not be exaggerated. The negotiations with Syria will not be on the Golan Heights, but on peace arrangements.

Sharon 'Embarrassed' at Course of Negotiations

TA0408120091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1040 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Ari'el Sharon, construction and housing minister, by Razi Barqay—live]

[Excerpt] [Barqay] The political conclusion from your vote, Minister Sharon, is that it calls for your resignation from the cabinet to concentrate on the struggle against the cabinet resolution from without.

[Sharon] No, I do not believe that my vote or my firm stand to look after the security and existence of Israel calls for my leaving the cabinet. I will definitely continue to operate from within the cabinet, and that, in my view, is essential at this hour.

[Barqay] It is a historic decision; you also admit that. You will claim that it is an ill-advised historic decision, but when the cabinet is striding toward an important move, such as negotiations with Syria, it is certainly possible that you should mobilize the opposition but not from within.

[Sharon] I believe that you can relax. I will certainly act so that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past. I do not oppose a peace conference or peace negotiations; I do oppose negotiations in the situation in which we have become involved. We could have attended in a much better situation, but as a result of conducting bad negotiations without standing firm on Israel's positions, we

have reached a very dangerous position, since it is clear to all that Israel is incapable of being resolute in its principles.

[Barqay] Mr. Sharon, I assume that so many years after Camp David—of which you were one of the architects—you do not regret the peace accord with Egypt. So, please, try to explain to us why it was good with Egypt and not with Syria?

[Sharon] I believe that the entire situation is different. I believe there is a significant difference between Egypt and Syria. It is true that neither has a democratic regime, but any attempt to compare al-Sadat and al-Asad is wrong. Syria is run by a murderous ruler and a totalitarian regime that has carried out no less terrible atrocities than those of Saddam Husayn, and it is possible that al-Asad even preceded Saddam Husayn and is worse.

[Barqay] Had it been a democratic system, would you have found it easier to yield several dozen dunams of land on the Golan Heights?

[Sharon] I am not dealing with giving up land. I suggest that we not deal with those issues in such a way as to ask what does it matter if we give up several dunams of land? The problem on the northern border is not one of land, but our ability to stand firm and to defend the north of the country. We have long experience. There are other issues, however, which bring me to beware of such a move. The first I have pointed to, and the second I will tell you now: Prior to the negotiations with Egypt—I know this personally and from talks with President al-Sadat—there were direct contacts and signs that Egypt intended to reach peace, not that we did not see dangers, but we knew it intended to reach peace—while in reference to Syria, all the evidence in our hands proves the contrary. Although there are those among us who try to look important and pretend that they know from secret sources about other developments, permit me to tell you flatly that they do not know anything from either overt or covert sources. We do not know about any change in Syria's stand.

[Barqay] Does Minister David Levi read documents that you do not?

[Sharon] I am not talking about anybody personally now, but I believe that I am fully acquainted with the issue. We should also note what Israeli friends and non-Jews write. There have been a number of articles in the U.S. press recently....[changes thought] there are in fact two sources of information. One is what Secretary of State Baker said and the other is what a journalist—who is not Jewish, Lally Weymouth, who is the most recent person to interview al-Asad—wrote. Al-Asad told her clearly that there is no change in his position, and added: Why should there be a change in our position?

[Barqay] Mr. Sharon, you are also chairman of the Likud Central Committee, and one of the options facing you is

to convene the Central Committee to try to foil the cabinet's decision there. Do you plan to convene the Central Committee?

[Sharon] Before answering you I will add another reason. It is depressing, I was even embarrassed, the way the negotiations were conducted without any demand from us on elementary things on which we should have insisted. The Arabs came with preconditions and got things. We did not even bring up the slightest demand, not even in a weak voice. In reference to your question about the Likud Central Committee, the Central Committee of a political body must convene in an orderly way and definitely when such events take place. I do not plan to request the convening of the Central Committee because I have tried so many times in the past and the routine answer is known to all. It is a shame to attempt it again to receive the same response. I have no intention of repeating it.

[Barqay] Of the three constraints ministers—you, David Levi, and Yitzhaq Moda'i—you have been left on your own. Perhaps it is necessary for you to consider the political wisdom of your position?

[Sharon] I do not want to recall all the times I have remained on my own and, to my regret, been right. In reference to the present, I do not feel alone. I know that there are many people who are concerned about the failure of those who conducted the negotiations to stand firm, about their unnecessary concessions without any pressure, without getting anything in return, which anybody who has minimal experience in negotiations knows must not be done. There are many such people. [passage omitted]

Levi Responds

TA0508082791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister David Levi by Gay Zohar and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Dan] Foreign Minister David Levi, good morning.

[Levi] Good morning.

[Dan] Do you believe that the demand that Minister Sharon be fired should be met?

[Levi] This is not my affair. The prime minister, who is in charge and has the authority to do that, will have to consider the issue and act as he sees right.

[Dan] You must have your own view on this matter.

[Levi] My position is that we should stop dealing with all this slander and all of these weird things aimed at undermining the government's activities. The government adopted a resolution. Now we must collect ourselves and act as a team to attain the best for the state and the people of Israel.

[Zohar] You say that he is undermining the government, but perhaps he is undermining you and his criticism could be considered personal?

[Levi] That is possible; however, when I look back and consider what I have learned from past treatment of such matters, I can only wonder. Therefore, because I am interested in the unity and success of the government and because this is far more important than the unnecessary verbiage, I look ahead. There is no shining example for me to learn from when I look back.

[Dan] Mr. Levi, you speak of verbiage, of chutzpah. The prime minister has even said that this is an unbridled lust for power. What is your interpretation?

[Levi] Well, if this is what the prime minister said, he should know and must have considered his remarks. All I can say is that when such a vast majority of cabinet members support the motion presented to them, the positive reasons must have outweighed those expressed by one of the members. Imagine a different scenario in which things had worked out differently and we were at odds with the whole world. Then they would have said: We must explain to the world; we are beaten; the whole world is against us; and other such fatalistic things. They would have said that we must find a way to save ourselves. I am familiar with all of this. I believe that we acted wisely and attained what is best for us. There is a lot of work ahead. We must look to the future.

[Dan] It is hard to believe that, until recently, you were in the same camp with him.

[Levi, laughing] Well, yes. I am still in the camp called the Likud.

[Dan] People change, you say?

[Levi] Let me remind you....

[Zohar, interrupting] Yes, the famous three noes.

[Levi] At that time, we said that if we deal with the Palestinian issue on its own, the threat to Israel's security will remain the same. That is why we said that there must be direct negotiations with the Arab countries, which we have attained, and that the process must not lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state, a point on which we have secured an understanding with the United States. The PLO is out. There will be no Arab representative from Jerusalem.

[Dan] Excuse me; is the PLO out?

[Levi] The PLO is not in. You can see it all over the place, but as far as Israel is concerned, it is not and never will be a partner for talks.

[Zohar] What about the intifadah? I believe this was the first no.

[Levi] Look, we were talking about what Israel should do. Israel is doing and will go on doing. If anyone were

considering negotiations with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] or the PLO, that would be a different thing altogether. We must curb terrorism on the one hand and advance toward peace on the other.

[Dan] We wanted to remind you that one of your major noes was that we will not enter negotiations with the residents of the territories before the intifadah ends. It certainly has not ended, and you....

[Levi, interrupting] Excuse me, we have discussed what should be done. I am at peace with myself. I believe that we did the best we could. I believe that we have attained things that just days ago were considered unattainable. When we raised them as a demand, some said that this is wishful thinking and an impossible mission. Today, I can say that Baker said yes to the Israeli stands. There is a change in the Middle East, in the world, and Israel must do whatever it can to profit from this change and serve its own interests.

[Zohar] Among other things Sharon said, he charged that facts are being kept from the public and the cabinet. Were secret negotiations held between Israeli and Syrian representatives before al-Asad made his reply public?

[Levi] I believe these are hallucinations; there were no such things. Everything is on the table, as we have agreed with the Americans. Although it is accepted that diplomacy is a secret matter—knowing the threats and dangers of potential interpretations—we have agreed with the Americans that everything will be out in the open; nothing is hidden or secret.

[Dan] Mr. Levi, can Israel accept the possibility that a Jordanian representative will represent East Jerusalem?

[Levi] We will have no Jerusalem representative. We are not discussing this anymore. We will formulate a document that will specify all the good understandings we have with the United States. The document will be drafted by an interministerial team and primarily by the Foreign Ministry.

[Dan] We have heard of the possibility that some compromise will be reached, that the representative will be Jordanian, and we are asking for your reaction to that. Can Israel accept such a compromise?

[Levi] We are not dealing with compromises. We have already stated that we are not discussing and will not discuss Jerusalem, and we will agree to no representative from Jerusalem. The question has been raised—it has been tossed in the air—about whether we would refuse to accept a particular Jordanian delegate if Jordan were to send a minister who is of Jerusalem origins or whose family is from Jerusalem. I have already stated that we will not delve into lineage. We will not accept anyone who claims to represent Jerusalem.

[Zohar] We heard the PLO state, and Middle East experts believe, that the PLO might eventually accept the

Israeli and U.S. stands, provided that it is approached officially, meaning: renewed U.S.-PLO relations. Are we willing to pay such a price?

[Levi] We do not deal with the PLO. The PLO is not a partner. There is no dialogue between the United States and the PLO. The PLO is bankrupt as a result of all the moves it has made. We must look at the positive developments of our initiative and the great opportunities it has opened for us. We are going to talk to representatives from Judea, Samaria, and Gaza who are here and are not PLO, and, on the other hand, we will hold direct negotiations with the Arab states without preconditions.

[Dan] Minister David Levi, thank you and good morning.

[Levi] Thank you.

Denies Israeli-Syrian Contacts

TA0408193891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1900 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi said he has no desire to cause a rift between the cabinet ministers and would therefore refuse to react to Construction and Housing Minister Ariel Sharon's allegations that the prime minister and the negotiating team concealed facts from the public and the cabinet. The foreign minister nevertheless asserted that everything Sharon had said was nonsense and stemmed from frustration. Levi said that Sharon's remarks were almost impudent and verged on the patronizing.

The foreign minister said he believed that Israel had embarked on the path toward peace, and at a better starting position than in the past.

Answering a question by our correspondent Gil Litman, Minister Levi denied that Israeli and Syrian representatives had met during the past year to promote the peace process. Levi was speaking to correspondents after a tour of Jerusalem's Morasha neighborhood after participating in a ceremony marking the renovation of the area.

Further Ministerial Comment on Cabinet Approval

LD0408204191 Paris Antenne-2 Television Network
in French 1800 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Report by Philippe Lefait and Charles Enderlin]

[Text] [Lefait] In Jerusalem the Israeli cabinet has approved the decision by Prime Minister Shamir to take part in the peace conference. There were 16 votes for and three against, including Ariel Sharon, the hardliner from the Likud, Mr. Shamir's party, who believes that the U.S. proposals are dangerous for Israeli security. More details now from Charles Enderlin reporting from Jerusalem for Antenne-2.

[Enderlin] Yitzhaq Shamir was in a buoyant mood this morning; he knew that only three ministers would vote

against Israel's participation in the peace conference. Ariel Sharon, who arrived late, accused him of leading the talks like an amateur and of leading the country to disaster. Shamir retorted that his critics were expressing a desire for power. Sixteen ministers voted in favor, including Avner Sciaki, a member of the National Religious Party, who until now had never sounded like a dove.

[Begin recording] [Sciaki] We want to give peace for peace. We hope the other side will also prove that it is ready to make peace for peace.

[Enderlin] They will ask for land in exchange for peace.

[Sciaki] Well, we said without preliminary conditions. What we will ask, we will see, but why not come to the table to listen. [end recording]

[Enderlin] The dynamic of the dialogue is what Professor Yuval Ne'eman minister of science and technology, fears. He voted against.

[Begin recording] [Ne'eman] You know that I am a physicist and I see how the result of all these forces can only force us to retreat from the Golan and from Judea-Samaria. [end recording]

[Enderlin] But before the October conference diplomats have a lot of work to do. Leading American officials are expected in the very next days to settle the last great problem: the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

Peres—Shamir 'Not Telling the Truth'

TA0208154591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1500 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres contends that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is not telling the truth to Israelis when he says that he is not going to make concessions. Let it be clear to all that Hafiz al-Asad will not make do with less than what Anwar al-Sadat received at the time, Peres said.

Addressing hundreds of Young Guard members in Haifa, Peres emphasized that only the framework of the negotiations has been determined at this point and that all the fateful and painful difficulties are still ahead of us.

Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Avi Yehezqel, secretary of the Labor Party's Young Guard, harshly criticized Peres' move to support the Shamir government over its decision to agree to a peace conference. It seems to me, Yehezqel said, that the Labor Party is being politically naive and will pay a heavy political price for it.

Preparations for Start of Talks Under Way

TA0508085691 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 5 Aug 91 pp 1, 14

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpt] Preparations for the beginning of negotiations between Israel and the Arab participants in the peace conference are under way in Jerusalem.

The prime minister has instructed the Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and the Defense Ministry to hold a series of interministerial discussions in order to draft proposals for the future negotiations. Political sources said that the three ministries have already begun their deliberations.

Israel will apparently propose to each of its neighbors (Syria, Jordan, and Lebanon) interim agreements for a defined period of time to precede a comprehensive agreement on the conflict. The meaning of this proposal is that at least in the first stage, for as long as the interim agreements are in effect, Israel will not be forced to withdraw from territories it has occupied.

The preliminary discussions are being coordinated by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office. Other participants are: Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein; Eytan Ben-Tzur, the Foreign Ministry's assistant director general; and Sali Meridor, the defense minister's political adviser. The teams will draft position papers that will be submitted to decisionmakers in Jerusalem prior to the negotiations.

Jerusalem officials have also begun unofficial contacts with U.S. elements regarding the format of the conference. The prevailing view is that the heads of the invited countries (Shamir representing Israel and al-Asad representing Syria) will come to the opening session of the peace conference, whereas the foreign ministers, accompanied by delegations of legal advisers and senior Army officers, will come to the bilateral negotiations, which will begin two weeks after the opening session. [passage omitted]

Points of Agreement With U.S. Outlined

TA0408095191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
4 Aug 91 p A3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Last Friday [2 August] at the prime minister's bureau, another meeting—which was not publicized—was held between the U.S. and Israeli teams to discuss the phrasing of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries. The U.S. team included Dennis Ross, director of the State Department's policy planning staff; John Kelly, assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South African affairs; and U.S. Ambassador William Brown. The Israeli team included Yosi Ben-Aharon, Prime Minister's Office director general; Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein; and Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to Washington. Both teams summed up the main points agreed upon in Baker's discussions here in preparation for the arrival this week in Jerusalem of Baker's advisers Aaron Miller and Dan Kurtzer to conclude the draft.

It is worth noting that it has not yet been decided what to call the document. It could be drafted as a memorandum of understanding, a list of agreements, or a unilateral letter of guarantees the U.S. Administration would give Israel.

Following are the main points that have taken shape so far:

1. The Palestinian representatives in the joint delegation with Jordan to the regional conference will be registered in the Judea, Samaria, and Gaza population register (and will not come from Jerusalem or the diaspora); they will accept the principle of two-track negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries and between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinians; they will accept the procedures of negotiations in stages—self-rule first, permanent arrangements later—and they will declare their commitment to live in peace with Israel.

2. The United States and the USSR understand that no side—Israel included—will have to negotiate with anyone it cannot sit with (a sort of veto, allowing Israel to oppose PLO representatives).

3. The bilateral negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab delegations will be direct and held in the absence of foreign mediators. The negotiations will start, at the latest, two days after the conference opens and will be held in bilateral teams: Israel-Syria; Israel-Lebanon; Israel-Jordan and the Palestinians.

4. Representatives to the conference will be on the ministerial level.

5. Two weeks from the day the conference starts, multi-lateral talks will begin dealing with regional issues such as arms supervision, water, the economy, and agriculture. Apart from the countries engaged in the bilateral negotiations, this forum will include Egypt and representatives of the Gulf states.

6. The participation of representatives of the super-powers, Egypt, the EC, and the United Nations will be limited to the opening of the conference. Reconvening this forum will be subject to the agreement of all sides, including Israel.

7. The UN representative will have no authority. He may hold talks only in the hallways, note down the content of the talks, and report to the secretary general.

8. The United States reaffirms [hozeret ume'asheret] its commitment to support Israel's demand to satisfy its security needs on the Golan Heights, in accordance with the letter President Ford sent former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in 1975 following the disengagement arrangements mediated by Kissinger.

9. The United States readopts [me'ameztet mehadash] its commitment not to hold a dialogue with the PLO as long as the organization does not prove it has changed its character.

10. The United States ratifies [me'ashreret] all its previous commitments to satisfy Israel's security needs in the framework of territorial arrangements in the region.

This memorandum of understanding will include as an addendum the 1983 memorandum of understanding in which the United States pledged that Israel will not be required to withdraw from south Lebanon as long as all foreign forces—including Syria and the PLO—have not evacuated the country. The United States is also required to make a commitment that the UN Security Council will not convene to discuss the [Middle East] conflict during negotiations; that the negotiations are not supposed to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state; and that the United States does not intend to issue a call for a return to the 1967 borders or for only cosmetic changes in these borders.

Palestinians Brief Press After Talks With Baker

TA0208181991 Jerusalem Israel Television Network
in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] After meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, the Palestinian delegation, comprising Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi, and Zakariyya al-Agha, announced that the Palestinian delegation and the American side have begun drafting a joint memorandum of understanding on the peace process. Baker met with the three Palestinians at the U.S. Consulate in West Jerusalem for over three hours. Following the meeting, Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. 'Ashrawi held a news conference at the al-Hakawati Theater in which they discussed the results of the meeting with Baker.

Dr. 'Ashrawi expressed the belief that the drafting of the memorandum of understanding with the American side will be concluded within two days. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Secretary of State Baker gave the Palestinian delegation some assurances based on the U.S. interpretation of implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of land for peace.

Faysal al-Husayni said that the two sides have emerged from the question-and-answer stage to that of action. He said that a positive change has occurred in the U.S. position, but this change is still not adequate as far as the Palestinians are concerned. He added that the Palestinian side is waiting for further U.S. clarifications to enable it to view the issue positively.

Dr. 'Ashrawi affirmed that the PLO is the one that will ultimately decide on the question of the makeup of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 2 August adds that, according to al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi, "Baker stressed that the United States, too, believes that it makes no sense that one side should veto the composition of the other side's delegation."]

In a related development, a U.S. official accompanying Secretary of State James Baker said that Mr. Baker failed

to obtain a Palestinian agreement to attend the proposed peace conference during the meeting he held today in Jerusalem with the Palestinian figures. The official added that the U.S. Administration will continue its efforts toward convening the conference and expressed the hope that the Palestinians will realize the opportunity being provided by the peace process.

[Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports on Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew at 1706 GMT on 2 August that "one possibility being currently examined is that Jordan include in its own delegation—on which Israel is not supposed to have any say whatsoever—no less than the son-in-law of the former mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni. We have no confirmation of this report. The man in question is attorney Muhi-al-Din al-Husayni, who was a minister in the Jordanian Government, and until three years ago represented Jerusalem in the parliament in Amman."]

More on News Conference

TA0208154091 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Telephone interview with territories correspondent Udi Segal by unidentified anchorman—live]

[Text] [Anchorman] The news conference held in East Jerusalem by the Palestinian notables who met today at noon with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker is over. Our correspondent in the territories Udi Segal reports:

[Segal] The news conference has just ended. The Palestinians presented their position. As had been expected, they relayed to James Baker the PLO position which had earlier been published by the PLO's news agency. It states that the PLO accepts the idea of a peace conference, subject to five conditions the main points of which are: Implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and recognition of a self-determined Palestinian entity and representatives on its behalf.

Not everything has been finalized yet. In the four hours they met with Baker the Palestinian representatives started drafting a memorandum of understanding with the Americans. The Palestinians asked a series of questions, and the secretary of state responded to some of them. Some responses were positive and some were less so, Faysal al-Husayni said during the news conference.

One of the most important questions Secretary Baker answered refers to UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Palestinians said the U.S. secretary of state gave them assurances about the U.S. interpretation which refers to land for peace. All the other points will be finalized within the next few days, the Palestinians said.

As noted, there is no definite answer yet. The Palestinians abstained from giving a definite response on the questions of Palestinian representation and East Jerusalem and just conveyed their reservations to Baker. All

the pending points will be discussed within the next few days, and then we will have a clearer picture.

[Anchorman] Has the PLO accepted the peace conference?

[Segal] It has accepted the peace conference, subject to five conditions. Just as Israel made its positive response subject to several conditions, so have the Palestinians—by means of the PLO—given a positive response subject to certain tough conditions pertaining to the Palestinian representation and the PLO. The secretary of state will have to find a compromise solution to settle the differences between the sides so that they may convene in a peace conference without all those qualifications.

5-Point Document Handed to Baker

TA0408094391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
4 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] During their Friday meeting the Palestinians handed Baker a five-point document summing up the main points of the Palestinians' demands for U.S. guarantees, which have been cited many times before. While the document was being handed to Baker, it was being simultaneously released by the Palestinian news agency in Tunis. The Palestinian announcement leads by saying that the PLO welcomes Bush's invitation to a Middle East peace conference. The following are the five demands:

—Assurance that the aim of the conference is to implement Resolutions 242 and 338 aimed at ending the occupation and Israel's withdrawing from all the Arab lands occupied in 1967, including Arab Jerusalem.

—Recognition of the Palestinians' political-national rights.

—Palestinian participation on the basis of a PLO decision without outside intervention.

—Discussion of the status of East Jerusalem at each stage of the negotiations with the residents of East Jerusalem taking part in the negotiations at each stage.

—Immediate cessation to settlement on all occupied lands, especially in Jerusalem.

Senior Sources Deny Reported Croatian Arms Deal

TA0408094991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 4 Aug 91 p 5

[Report by Isra'el Tomer]

[Text] Israeli Military Industries [IMI] has offered the Croatian Government 18,000 Galil assault rifles and 10,000 Uzi submachine guns with collapsible butts. The asked-for price: \$780 for the Galils and \$490 for the Uzis. This was reported in a wide-ranging research article in NIN, a weekly published in Belgrade. The deal is worth some \$20 million.

It is unclear from the report whether the deal has been closed. It only says that IMI made the proposal to the Croatian Interior Ministry's militia on 16 September 1990.

Senior Israeli sources have denied the report and stressed that even had the Croats officially asked to purchase Israeli arms, they would have been turned down.

Reports on Visit by U.S. Secretary of State

Talks With King Husayn Begin

JN0208151791 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1506 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Talks are about to begin with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and his delegation. His Majesty King Husayn is leading the Jordanian team, which includes His Highness Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

The American secretary of state arrived in Amman this afternoon from Israel. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, Foreign Ministry secretary general, and other top Jordanian officials.

King—Talks 'Frank and Positive'

JN0208192591 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1900 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] His majesty the king held talks at al-Hashimiyah Palace this evening with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who arrived on a visit to Jordan today. The talks dealt with Middle East peace efforts. They were attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Highness Prince 'Abdallah Bin-al-Husayn, the prime minister, the chief of the royal court, his majesty the king's political adviser, the foreign minister, and the Jordanian ambassador to the United States. From the American side, the talks were attended by the assistant secretary of state for Middle Eastern Affairs, the American ambassador, and the U.S. State Department's spokeswoman. His majesty described his talks with the U.S. secretary of state as frank and positive.

King Husayn, Baker Brief Press

JN0208200791 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1928 GMT 2 Aug 91

[News conference by King Husayn and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker with unidentified reporters on 2 August in Amman—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Husayn] Secretary, I would like to welcome you once again with your colleagues and our friends on this visit. We are full of admiration for the determination and the concerted effort being made by the President and your good self, and our other friends in the world for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace in this region. I believe that this visit comes at a very important time, a time of soul-searching for so many, and hopefully a time for the revival and rebirth of courage in the hearts and minds of many to look at the present, and to look at the future, and to look at our responsibilities towards people long after we are gone from this region. And hopefully the future we can all work to attain is one of peace, security, and all the opportunities that have been denied this region for so long and for all concerned.

Our talks have been extremely helpful, and frank, and positive, and I believe that somehow, I hope we are back on the way towards a return to the kind of relationship that existed between the United States and Jordan in the sixties, and maybe in the early part of the sixties, based on mutual respect, cooperation, and a feeling of partnership.

I certainly welcome you again sir, and at the same time feel happy and confident and proud to say that I recognize the earnest and sincere efforts for the cause of peace; yours, and of course the President's, and the administration's efforts that I hope will be rewarded as would the efforts of all of us, all concerned, that we will fulfill our duties towards the generations to come.

Thank you very, very much indeed sir. [passage omitted]

[Text] [Reporter] Your Majesty: Can you tell us if you and Secretary Baker are in agreement on how to proceed to resolve the problem of the joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, and if you yourself see a solution to that?

[Husayn] I believe that that particular area is a very, very important area which we have been trying to address to the best of our abilities, and as far as Jordan's position is concerned, it is very, very clear, as I believe it is the view of our friends that the time has come hopefully for the Palestinians to decide in view of all the circumstances and the opportunity that the moment presents on their participation in efforts for a comprehensive settlement. And obviously the Palestinian-Israeli dimension of the problem is the basic element that is to be addressed. Again our position has very clearly defined itself in that we cannot, nor can anyone, represent the Palestinians. Palestinians will have to be themselves responsible for their own representation. We have spoken of the umbrella that we are willing to provide once they approach us for that to happen. And we are in constant dialogue with our Palestinian brethren on a very large scale and in many different directions. And I hope that we will make progress. I believe the progress made during this very short space of time has been unprecedented in regard to the problems of this region—particularly the chronic one of the Arab-Israeli dimension, and the Palestinian-Israeli dimension. So, we are hopeful that things will move ahead, and if the Palestinians... [changes thought] And when they do approach us, if that is their choice for the joint delegation within the context of the umbrella that we could provide, we will welcome that and I hope that we will have some results soon on this subject one way or another.

[passage omitted] [Reporter] Your Majesty, your remarks about the need to get going the unprecedented opportunity, is it time to put aside this debate over East Jerusalem so far as representation goes, or is there more to settle, more to resolve about that aspect of the delegation?

[Husayn] I believe that Palestinians should choose their representatives. I believe that a great deal of concern should be addressed to all Palestinians in terms of their rights, be they in the occupied territories in particular, or elsewhere. I believe they have suffered a lot, and they

have suffered from lack of recognition of their rights over a long period of time. So, it is for them to decide who represents them. But our particular concern is for the superpatriots in my view amongst the Palestinians, and those are those who have endured all the difficulties and all the challenges and all the hardships over many, many years in the occupied territories, and I hope all the Palestinians feel with them and, obviously, as far as Palestinians in the occupied territories in our view that the subject is one we are talking about, Palestinians and Palestinian territories occupied in June of 1967 and they all have rights. But once again, clearly, I feel that it is, as I have suggested earlier, that it is better not to debate these issues too much with our friends in the media, and I will give the same answer that the secretary gave you, and I believe this is adequate.

[Reporter] Your Majesty: You said on several occasions that you are waiting for the Palestinians to come to you and formally ask for an umbrella. Which Palestinians are you waiting for? Are you waiting for people from the territories, or are you waiting for people from Tunis, or are you waiting for a combination? Is there an official group that you are waiting for?

[Husayn] We are talking to everybody, sir, and within Jordan itself and in the atmosphere of democracy and popular participation in assuming responsibilities, the debate continues, and intensifies, and again some may appear in the media and some may not. But what we are really are seeking is common understanding, and what we are seeking is progress, and what we are seeking is to make the contributions that must be made for the sake of achieving a just and durable peace.

[Reporter] Are you prepared at this point for Jordan to enter direct negotiations—bilateral negotiations with Israel?

[Husayn] Within the context of a comprehensive settlement as outlined and with the participation of all parties concerned.

[Reporter] I think, Your Majesty, it is difficult to let the anniversary of the invasion of Kuwait go by without asking you whether you reconsidered your own position in that war and rethought it?

[Husayn] I still believe that maybe you will understand what our position was. But in any event, let me put it in another way. We produced a white paper, which should be in circulation and should reach our friends throughout the world very soon, just for the sake of putting events in their proper historic perspective. And I hope that you will understand that once and for all that our position was not for the use of Arab military forces against an Arab state or for an invasion or for annexation of a country. We were against that from the outset as we have always been. We have accepted Security Council Resolution 242 and helped formulate it. We took a similar stand in the case of Cyprus, in the case of the Falklands, and in the case of Kuwait. We tried an approach through diplomacy to reverse the process. But all this is in the past, and I hope that our friends

throughout the world will understand us for what we really stood for and struggled for. We have to look to the future in the hope that this will happen, and that the misinterpretations of Jordan's position, of misunderstanding will disappear, because I believe once again they are unfair and unjust. [Resolution] 242's preamble is the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by war. This is our position regarding the events of a year from this time in terms of the past, and whatever may occur in the future anywhere in the world.

[passage omitted]

[Husayn] May I add, if I may, I think that there is a slight confusion, and it's not very very clear in my mind how we will be able to put it together. But I agree with the secretary on all Palestinian issues. With regard to Israel there will have to be a Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinians regarding these issues. Regarding the Jordanian-Israeli dimension of the problem, that includes territories, it includes warfare, it includes.... [changes thought] There may even be in that dimension a degree of cooperation and coordination with the Palestinian delegation dealing with that area. But Jordanian state affairs with regard to Israel, regarding territory, and regarding other rights is something that the Jordanian element within that delegation will be addressing. And then we have the third dimension, which is the regional grouping as well. So all these hopefully will come together and will be much clearer in the times ahead. And I am sorry. I think you didn't ask a question [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Israelis are suggesting that one way of solving the Jerusalem problem would be that a Jordanian member of the delegation born in East Jerusalem might indeed attend as the Jordanian [as heard] part of the Jordanian delegation, and talking to the Palestinians do you think that's something they would accept?

[Husayn] I honestly would not wish to answer this question at this point. I think it premature to enter into details. We are talking about a Palestinian delegation representing the Palestinians. And I told you our view of what the occupied territories are as far as we are concerned with regard to 242. Let's leave it at that.

[Reporter] Your Majesty, your acceptance of your country of peace talks to sit alongside with the other Arab countries based on 242 and 338. [question as heard] And it has been reported that Jordan received assurances from the United States that its interpretation of 242 corresponds with your interpretation of 242. Does this mean that the Arab countries can expect that the logical outcome of the conference will inevitably be Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories in implementation of these resolutions, and will there be a timetable for the negotiations or will it be left open while settlements continue in the occupied territories?

[Husayn] No comment. [laughter]

Baker Departs

JN0308102591 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker left Amman today after a two-day visit to Jordan during which he met with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials on issues related to convening a peace conference on the Middle East. Mr. Baker also briefed King Husayn on the results of his talks with the Israeli Government and the Palestinian delegation the day before yesterday, and gave them his assessment of the current situation.

He was seen off at Queen Alia International Airport by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, senior officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Amman governor and police chief, the Jordanian ambassador to Washington, and the U.S. ambassador to Amman.

King Husayn, 'Arafat Discuss Latest Developments

JN0308192091 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] In Tunis the PALESTINIAN NEWS AGENCY, WAFA, reports that PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held a telephone conversation with Jordan's King Husayn on the latest developments in the Middle East and on the peace efforts.

King Receives 'Arafat Message on Peace Efforts

JN0308141391 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1400 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a message from his brother His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, dealing with the international peace efforts under way and the Palestinian stance toward these efforts.

The message was delivered by the Palestinian ambassador to Amman when His Majesty King Husayn received him at the Royal Hashemite Court this afternoon.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Islamic Conference

JN0308155091 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur left Amman for Istanbul this afternoon to lead Jordan's delegation to the meeting of the Islamic states foreign ministers, scheduled to begin there tomorrow, Sunday.

The conferees will discuss political, economic, and social issues of interest to the Islamic world, including the Middle East situation, the Palestine question, and the situation of Islamic communities worldwide, particularly minorities in Asian and African countries. The conference will also broach the problems of the Horn of Africa and the hard economic conditions of underdeveloped countries in the Islamic world.

Ministry Denies Talks on Economic Restructuring

JN0508103891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
5 Aug 91 p 1

[Text] Amman (Petra)—The Finance Ministry Sunday denied the presence in Jordan of a team representing the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or the World Bank to discuss Jordan's economic restructuring programme and said press reports about such team are groundless. "No such team is present in Jordan and no negotiations have been conducted between the Jordanian government and the IMF about the economic programme," said a spokesman for the Finance Ministry. "All that has been reported about such matter is incorrect," he added. The official said that a team of technicians from the World Bank is currently in Jordan to discuss with government its special policies to encourage industries and to promote Jordanian exports, with particular focus on modern technology used in industrial production.

Banks Asked To Bid for BCCI Branches

JN0308055091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
3 Aug 91 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Jordanian banks interested in buying the branches in Jordan of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) have been asked to submit definite offers to the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) in 10 days' time, informed sources said Friday.

The CBJ move came in reaffirmation of the government's decision not to order a liquidation of BCCI operations in Jordan, noted the sources, who said the CBJ request for specific offers came during a meeting held Thursday.

Representatives of seven leading Jordanian banks attended the meeting along with representatives of BCCI and a committee appointed by the CBJ to supervise the affairs of the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom, the sources told the Jordan Times.

"The seven Jordanian banks, which have expressed interest in acquiring one or more of the BCCI branches, were asked to come up with definite individual offers for consideration by the CBJ," said one of the sources. "The Central Bank gave them 10 days to submit their offers in view of a sense of urgency in moves to settle the issue of BCCI once and for all," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

According to a senior official, the CBJ is "keeping its options open and no decision has been made whether to sell all three branches to one single bank."

There is conviction in Jordanian banking circles that there is no threat to local depositors with the three BCCI branches and all liabilities of the bank are adequately covered.

Meanwhile, some political pundits and banking experts are raising questions over the broader issue of the European and American crackdown on BCCI, which is

accused in Europe as well as the U.S. of running front operations for clandestine deals, including drug trafficking, gun-running and coffee-smuggling.

"Every international bank has its own skeletons in the cupboard and shady deals," argued one economic expert. "It will not be an exaggeration to say that the behind-the-scene operations undertaken by BCCI could take a backseat to some of those carried out by some of international giants in the field of banking," said the expert, who also preferred anonymity.

"That is of course not to justify BCCI actions or defend the bank," he asserted. "But the question nobody is asking in Jordan is why BCCI has been singled out on the international level..."

Dr. Mahir al-Wakid, executive director of the Bank of Jordan, said he also thinks that there is "some element" of truth in charges that politics were at work behind the crackdown on BCCI.

But, he said, "I don't think politics—specifically that the BCCI is a Third World-owned institution with extensive connections in the Arab World—were the major reasons behind the move against the bank."

"Other international banks may or may not be involved in clandestine deals, but the magnitude of BCCI involvement was so visible that one cannot simply categorically argue that the Arab ownership and Third World management were the only factors behind the Western seizure of the bank," he said.

Dr. Fahd al-Fanik, a noted Jordanian analyst, said he believed that "there is indeed truth in charges that BCCI was involved in malpractices, but the timing of the move against the bank indicates that political forces could have been at work."

"It was known for quite some time that there were banking malpractices in BCCI, but the (West) was keeping a blind eye towards it," Dr. al-Fanik noted. "So now the sudden crackdown on the bank points to something more than just moving against a bank with malpractices."

Minister on Peace Process, Press Freedom

JN0508094691 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
5 Aug 91 p 24

[Interview with Minister of Information and Culture Dr. Khalid al-Karaki by Mamduh al-Hawamidah in Amman—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Hawamidah] Where do we stand in regard to the latest political developments, and precisely what is Jordan's position in regard to what is being said and what has been said following the visit by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker?

[Al-Karaki] I would like to emphasize that Jordan, while dealing with the current political efforts, is committed to international legitimacy, the Palestinian people's right to

self-determination on their national soil, and the nation's right to a future in which it enjoys freedom, dignity, and unity. I would like also to add that Jordan is committed to these constants and is aware of its path which is guided by the wisdom of its leadership, the awareness of its people, and its democratic march. Jordan has a national and a pan-Arab experience that enables it to view issues with clear vision. No one has the right to outbid its positions. Its position toward the Gulf crisis continues to reflect its pan-Arab commitment, and its concern for national interests. The White Paper has clearly explained the dimensions and reality of this position.

Jordanians have suffered from difficult circumstances, misunderstanding, and siege. However, armed with wisdom, awareness, and patience, they have remained committed to the higher pan-Arab interests, concerned with the future of this nation's generations, and not relinquishing any of their historic rights. They have suffered and are still suffering much hardship and distress, and have offered sacrifices throughout their march since the early decades of this century. Those who know the present situation and can visualize the future should be aware that Jordan's soil, its security, and its future necessitate the highest degree of alertness, awareness, and vision by all.

[Al-Hawamidah] What point has the press and publication draft law reached?

[Al-Karaki] The Specialized Committee and the Legislative Commission have completed preparation of the draft that will be referred to the Council of Ministers in prelude to its being presented to the parliament within the next few days. Wide-ranging amendments have been introduced to the draft law, after viewpoints of a number of concerned quarters have been explored, to have the post-charter stage with all the freedom, democracy and political pluralism it represents. [passage omitted]

[Al-Hawamidah] What about the requests to issue new newspapers and magazines?

[Al-Karaki] The ministry is currently studying these requests, and a decision concerning nonpartisan newspapers will be made as soon as the study is completed and after the required conditions are met. As for the partisan newspapers, they should wait until the new parties law and the publications and press law are adopted.

[Al-Hawamidah] Are there new developments concerning freedom of the press?

[Al-Karaki] The press has total freedom; this is an undisputed issue because commitment to the freedom of the press, and providing it with a democratic atmosphere to express the causes of the homeland and the nation, stems from our commitment to the constitutional liberties and the government's desire to maintain this liberty so that the press may shoulder the responsibility of this stage—a stage that carries deep democratic changes in terms of the basic concepts of justice, tolerance, dialogue, acceptance of the other's view, and consolidation of the authority of law. [passage omitted]

Western Hostage Reportedly Killed in Ba'labakk

PM0508153191 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT
AL-DUWALI in Arabic 3 Aug 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Western Hostage Killed in Ba'labakk"]

[Text] Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—An Iranian source close to the Iranian Revolutionary Guard in Lebanon has revealed that there has been great concern within the Iranian leadership since the report it received last week on Western hostages in Lebanon. The source added that an Iranian envoy who visited Ba'labakk recently met with some Hizballah and Islamic Jihad leaders and discovered that one of the hostages had been killed under mysterious circumstances. The source said that the victim had been kidnapped by a joint Hizballah-Islamic Jihad cell while on a mission in Beirut.

The source said that the Iranian envoy immediately sent an urgent message to Tehran via the Iranian Embassy in Damascus, informing the leadership of what had happened to the Western hostage.

SAWT AL-KUWAYT has learned from informed Iranian sources that the causes of the incident are still unknown, but there are rumors that he was killed by the guards when he tried to escape from an underground shelter near the Shaykh 'Abdallah Barracks in the Ba'labakk area.

Chamber Approves Decision To Attend Conference

NC0108163691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Excerpt] The Chamber of Deputies committees held a meeting today at which they approved the government's decision to participate in an international peace conference. Announcing this at a news conference after the meeting, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni stressed that the Chamber committees asked the government to continue its efforts to ensure that all countries concerned with the Lebanese crisis honor their obligations and pledges to Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Condemns Peace Talks

LD0208164391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic
of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT
2 Aug 91

[Text] Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement issued a statement today in which it condemned any kind of peace talks and deals with the Zionist regime over Lebanese territory, under any pretext. According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, part of that movement's statement says: Struggle against the occupiers until their complete departure from southern Lebanon is a religious obligation and the only solution to liberating the land and defending the southern residents. Elsewhere in the statement, Lebanon's Hizballah describes the stances adopted by the Zionist regime as

the continuation of their aggressive policies. It stresses: Lebanon's agreement to talks with the Zionist regime will serve to justify the Zionists' attacks against Lebanese soil and their occupation of the southern part of the country.

Syrian Information Minister Comments

NC0308083791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] In a comprehensive interview with the Voice of Lebanon on the Lebanese issue and the international peace conference, Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman stressed that the Lebanese legitimacy did not say it supported attending the conference or relinquish implementation of Security Council Resolution 425. He noted that the circumstances surrounding this resolution are different from those of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said that Lebanon's participation in the conference is intended to take an effective part in the security arrangements to establish peace in the region and to consolidate its Arab role.

Salman spoke of Syria's persistent efforts to release all hostages regardless of nationality because holding them is an act that runs counter to all human principles. He noted that several factors affect this issue: the abductors are not official bodies with whom talks could be held nor are they recognized parties in Lebanon. It is not feasible to handle these groups harshly because this could lead to the killing of the hostages.

Salman said the Arab solidarity which manifested itself in the Damascus Declaration reflected positively on Lebanon and helped the legitimate government proceed in its efforts to consolidate its presence within the Arab ranks.

On U.S. confirmation about achieving Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Salman said that what President al-Asad said is clear: There are no U.S. guarantees on this, but there is U.S. commitment to international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338. He pointed out that Washington has constantly refused the Israeli measure of annexing the Golan Heights. He said these two resolutions provide for Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories, the establishment of a just peace, and for international auspices for a peace conference. He said that the conference will be convened by international unanimity and that the implementation of the resolution is an international affair that expresses the dignity of the United Nations. He noted that Israel has continued its stalling and deceit. He said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is not confronting only Arab public opinion but world public opinion, and therefore he must shoulder the responsibility. We, as Arabs, support President al-Asad's response to President Bush.

On Palestinian representation and not ignoring the PLO and Jerusalem, Salman said this representation can be determined by the Palestinian people or a Palestinian

organization that combines all parties, and noted the Palestinian dialogue to confront the new situation. He expressed his belief that it is premature to convene an Arab summit with the participation of Yasir 'Arafat to unify stands on a peace conference. Salman said that a solution must be comprehensive, covering the Palestinian, Jordanian, Palestinian, and all other fronts.

Buwayz Gives Lebanon's Position

NC0408075091 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0715 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the position he conveyed to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Cairo regarding Lebanon's participation in a peace conference is the same one the Lebanese cabinet endorsed later. In a statement to the newspaper AL-HAYAH, he said that he consulted with senior officials on this situation before he departed for Cairo. He explained Lebanon's goal of participation in the peace conference and the position on Security Council Resolution 425 and ways of implementing it. He emphasized the need to separate the two positions.

Regarding the dialogue with the Palestinians in Lebanon, Buwayz said that Lebanon will not officially accept a certain status quo or settlement of the Palestinians in Lebanon. He noted that the Lebanese Government's duty is to ensure a proper and decent life for the Palestinians and the same rights enjoyed by any foreign worker living in Lebanon under Lebanese laws.

Regarding General 'Awn, Buwayz said discussions are under way to settle this issue. He said guidelines have been defined and we are awaiting further consultations on this issue. He noted that contacts between the Lebanese Government and France focus on the possibility of working out a solution that primarily will preserve the Lebanese Government's judicial, legal, material, and political rights and enable a solution to the problem of 'Awn's presence in the French Embassy.

Al-Hirawi Asks To Meet Bush During U.S. Visit

NC0408055791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] A Lebanese diplomatic source in Paris has been cited as saying that President Ilyas al-Hirawi will meet with U.S. President George Bush in September during his visit to the United States to attend the regular UN session.

The source indicated that President al-Hirawi has asked the Lebanese Embassy in Washington to arrange a rendezvous for him to meet with the U.S. President. President al-Hirawi also expressed this desire to the U.S. ambassador in Beirut.

Buwayz Comments on Departure for ICO Talks

NC0208110691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz left Beirut for Istanbul this morning at the head of an official delegation to participate in the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers meetings. The meetings are to start tomorrow.

In a statement at Beirut airport before departing, Minister Buwayz said the Lebanese delegation will raise the southern issue and aid planned for Lebanon. He emphasized that Lebanon's participation in the Middle East peace conference has nothing to do with the implementation of Resolution 425 or the end of Israel's occupation of part of the south. [passage omitted]

Rumored BCCI Link to Lebanon Bank Causes Panic

NC0308074391 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed
in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Panic gripped thousands of depositors who rushed to branches of the Banque du Liban et Outremer, the leading Bank operating in Lebanon, to close their accounts following rumors that it was going bankrupt. The rumors indicated a link between this bank and the Bank of Credit and Commerce International [BCCI].

George 'Ashshi, head of the Banks Association, has emphasized that there are no connections between the banks and that the Lebanese bank has no deposits in the BCCI.

Panic surfaced Tuesday and peaked yesterday, when depositors rushed to the bank main office and its branches in Beirut and other areas. Despite the fact that banks close at 1400, the 24 bank branches remained open until 2300 yesterday to meet depositors' demands. The bank management stated that the bank branches will remain open all day Sunday.

Officials 'Reassure' Depositors

NC0308080391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Leading financiers, businessmen, and economists agree that the banking situation in Lebanon is sound and capable of meeting all challenges. Withdrawals on the Banque du Liban et d'Outremer eased yesterday.

Dr. Nu'man al-Azhari, chairman of the board of directors of the bank, has issued a statement emphasizing that the bank's cash counters will be open after working hours, including Sunday, to dispense from its own liquid assets and without limits on all the deposits, even frozen ones.

Meanwhile, Michel al-Khuri, governor of the Lebanese Central Bank, affirmed the bank's support for the banking sector to deal with emergencies within the frameworks defined by the law. He appealed to the

citizens not to heed rumors. The Banks Association in Lebanon also issued a statement urging all the banks, especially major and foreign banks, not to accept any new deposits from clients who had withdrawn their deposits from other banks because of the rumors.

Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has reassured the citizens that the banking sector in Lebanon is sound and strong. In a statement yesterday, he said: In the wake of the biased rumors about the Lebanese economy, especially the banking sector, we would like to reassure the citizens that this sector is strong and sound. He said that the state is prepared to do everything required to prevent the continuation of this conspiracy.

Concluding, the minister said: The higher court of appeals' public prosecution has taken charge of this case and opened an investigation into this matter. I have asked all the concerned departments to find out the identity of those who have spread the rumors.

Meanwhile, the NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY has said that it has been learned from the public prosecution that some individuals and quarters are suspect.

Hizballah Claims Second Anti-Lahd Operation

NC0208123191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] This morning the resistance carried out two operations against positions manned by Antoine Lahd's militiamen in Anan and 'Aramta in Jazzin. The militia's radio admitted both operations. Hizballah has claimed responsibility for both operations. A statement circulated by the party in Sidon said an Islamic resistance group attacked a Lahd militia position in the Anan area of Jazzin using machine guns and rockets at around 0700 this morning. The statement added that an armored troop carrier was damaged and the militiamen suffered casualties and material damage.

As for the 'Aramta explosion, the Hizballah statement said all the members of a Lahd patrol were either killed or wounded. The militia's radio denied there were injuries and said an armed group attacked one of its positions in Anan. The radio said a Lahd patrol has discovered and detonated a land mine planted on a military road near 'Aramta and a search operation was carried out afterward. It did not refer to any casualties.

In another development, reports from the south say the Israeli occupation troops continue to reinforce their positions along the occupied strip. Meanwhile, the Israeli troops continue to surround the villages of Yuhmur and Dayr Syrian for the fifth consecutive day.

Islamic Resistance Claims Anti-SLA Attack

NC0208174991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The Islamic Resistance has announced that one of its units detonated an explosive charge near a South

Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol on the old Sujud road at 1530 today. A resistance statement noted that five SLA soldiers were killed or wounded, adding that the Israeli forces subsequently shelled the al-Luwayzah area. The resistance carried out two other operations against the SLA in 'Aramta and Anan earlier today.

Lahd, Israeli Forces Bombarding Southern Villages

NC0208191591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Agent Lahd's forces and the occupation troops have been directing heavy artillery fire against towns in the south since 2100 today. In a telephone conversation with our radio, a NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent said that the towns of Haris, Haddathah, 'Ayta al-Jabal, and Sribbin continue to come under tank fire from positions on Bayt Yahun and Rshaf hills. A total of 12 120-mm shells have fallen so far. REUTER has reported that the artillery of the Lahd-led South Lebanese Army bombarded the Hizballah-controlled al-Luwayzah township this evening.

Further Israeli Shelling

NC0308115391 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] In the south, Israeli occupation forces used 155-mm field guns to shell the towns of Yatar, Kafra, and Haddathah from their positions in Tall 'Abbas this morning. Last night the towns of Bra'shit, Shaqra, and Haris came under 120-mm artillery shelling from the occupation forces' positions in Rshaf. The occupation forces also used flares to illuminate the areas of Bani Hayyan, Markaba, al-Tayyibah, and Tallusah. Motorized movements by the occupation forces were spotted in the Tallusah position.

Israeli warplanes flew over the al-Litani riverbanks at dawn today. Lahd militiamen arrested student As'ad Dib from 'Aramta at the Kafr Huna roadblock and took him to al-Khiyam detention camp.

'Jazzin Resistance' Claims Attacks Against Lahd

NC0308122191 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The Jazzin resistance today announced two operations against Lahd militia positions in the south. The targets of these operations were a roadblock near Kafr Huna and an artillery emplacement in Kafr Falus. The Jazzin resistance issued a statement saying that the operations were carried out by detonating explosive charges and that several Lahd personnel were either killed or wounded as a result. Afterward, the Lahd militia closed the crossing points leading to Jazzin.

Al-Husayni: 'Complete Understanding' Among Leaders

NC0108193891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1900 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has affirmed that there is complete understanding among the state's leaders because the supreme national interest prevails over all other interests. President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni and Prime Minister 'Umar Karami at the Presidential Palace this evening to discuss the latest developments. Commenting after the meeting, Speaker al-Husayni said: The meeting was a follow-up to the meeting of the parliamentary committees. Prime Minister Karami and I briefed his excellency the president on the parliamentary meeting and discussed recent developments.

Asked whether the understanding is now complete among the state's leaders on general issues, Speaker al-Husayni said: Understanding is always complete. God willing, because the supreme national interest prevails over all other interests. We must all do what we can to serve our country, particularly in this difficult stage when Lebanon is emerging from its long ordeal at a delicate time that requires the mobilization of all resources and capabilities to serve the homeland.

Egypt Agrees 'in Principle' To Give Tanks

NC0208054491 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Citing Arab diplomats and military sources in Cairo, REUTER has reported that Egypt has agreed in principle to give Lebanon 90 M-60 tanks as part of the Egyptian military aid to Lebanon. The agency added that it is likely that senior military officials will visit Beirut to train well over 1,000 Lebanese troops after a meeting which the Arab League will hold to this effect in September.

Fadlallah on Army-Resistance Cooperation

NC0208175191 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] In his Friday sermon today, Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called on the Lebanese Army and the resistance to join hands within the framework of the liberation mission. He added that if the Army's mission is to liberate the land, then this is also the mission of the resistance and so they must work together to achieve this and not fight one another. Fadlallah also denounced the international conference for peace in the Middle East, affirming that it is an American-Israeli peace. He called on the Palestinians to escalate the intifadah, particularly during the conference, because escalating the intifadah and refusing to recognize Israel are the only things they can do.

*** Al-Hirawi Reportedly To Visit Cairo in Aug**

91P40388A London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic
1 Aug 91 pp 1,4

[Excerpts] Informed Egyptian sources said yesterday that Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi will soon pay an official visit to Egypt in August at the head of a large delegation, including Prime Minister 'Umar Karami.

The sources said that al-Harawi's visit to Egypt will be the second stop on his Arab tour, undertaken within the framework of the Lebanese desire to participate effectively in the peace process in the region. This is in spite of Israeli attempts to remove the subject of southern Lebanon from the settlement discussion table in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

The sources indicated that regional issues, the recent Lebanese-Syrian agreement, and bilateral Egyptian-Lebanese relations in various political and economic areas will be the topics of discussion at the upcoming Egyptian-Lebanese summit.

Observers expect that discussions during the tour will cover stimulating Arab support for the Lebanese reconstruction fund to end the legacy of the civil war.

Afghanistan

Najibollah Issues Legislative Decree

LD0408193491 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] President Najibollah issued a decree on a legal document. The press department of the presidential office told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY correspondent that a decree from esteemed Afghanistan President Najibollah concerning the endorsement of a legislative decree of the Council of Ministers was issued as follows:

Under Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, I endorse legislative decree No. 68, dated 1 July, by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, which has been approved concerning the local organs of state administration. The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan is commissioned to present the aforementioned decree legislative decree to the first sitting of the Council of Ministers for approval. This decree, along with the legislative decree of the Council of Ministers, should be sent to the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Afghanistan for publication in the official gazette.

[Signed] President of Afghanistan Najibollah

Government Forces Seize Explosives, Battle Rebels

Explosives Seized in Kabul

LD0308181891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The organs of the Ministry of State Security yesterday discovered and seized 18 kilograms of Trotyl-type explosives and six kilograms of plastic explosives as they were being brought inside Kabul City for organizing explosions. BIA's [BAKHTAR Information Agency] military section reports that these explosives were cleverly hidden inside petroleum containers [words indistinct] and thermos.

Successful Battle in Helmand

LD0308212191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0530
GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 2, BAKHTAR—The government Armed Forces contingents and detachments have successfully repulsed a piratic attack by extremists in Grishkh District, Helmand Province, [in the] west of Afghanistan, on Thursday.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reports, as a result of the Armed Forces strikes a number of war-mongers were either killed or wounded, an extremist was captured alive, 34 rockets and four cases of light weapons cartridges were seized.

Based on another report, the organs of the State Security Ministry have discovered 24 kg of explosives today

which were placed in a gallon [container], video cassette and tea pot in Kabul City. The extremist intended to organize explosions in crowded parts of the city.

According to another report, six extremists were killed and tens [of] others injured in an armed clash that took place between the Gulbuddin and Sayaf extremist groups in Towr Kham area, Nangarhar province, east of Afghanistan, bordering with Pakistan.

Lowgar Rebels 'Crushed'

LD0408005191 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The Armed Forces yesterday inflicted crushing blows on the trenches and headquarters of the warmongering extremists around Lowgar Province. The BAKHTAR Information Agency military section reports that, as a result of these actions, a number of the extremists, including Gholam Sarwar, Nasrollah, Sayd Akbar, Del Agha, Mola Rahmatshah, and Ruhollah—six ringleaders—and Abu Torab, a Saudi mercenary, were crushed. A number of others, including Meya, Rasul, and Gol Marjan—three ringleaders—were injured. Several heavy weapons, a large amount of ammunition, and several extremist hideouts were also destroyed as a result of these actions.

16 Missiles in Lowgar Captured

LD0508035591 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Officials from the Internal Affairs Ministry's Anticrime Department yesterday captured 16 missiles in (Gotan) area, Mohammad Agha District, Lowgar Province. The BAKHTAR Information Agency military section reports that the rockets were deployed in the area for use against residential areas and for carrying out terrorist acts. They were discovered with citizens' help and were removed.

More Explosives Discovered

LD0408143391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Dari 1330 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] A weapons cache of warmonger extremists was recently discovered as a result of mopping up and search [operations] mounted by officials of the department for the campaign against crime of Vardak Province Sarandoy. Seven Sakar rockets, 10 missile cases, 16 boxes of light and heavy weapons ammunition, and five rocket launcher shells were retrieved according to a report by the BAKHTAR military section.

Officials of Parvan Province Sarandoy prevented the occurrence of a heart-rendering incident in Charikar, capital of the province, yesterday by discovering six kilograms of explosives. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the explosives were deployed in a crowded section of the city to cause carnage there. They

were discovered in time by officials of Parvan Province Sarandoy with the cooperation of locals.

Troops Fight Laghman Rebels

LD0408182391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] As many as five residents of the center of Laghman, Mehterlam, were martyred yesterday and today as a result of rocket and heavy weapons attack from east of the city. According to a BIA [Bakhtar Information Agency] military report, damage has also been inflicted on the residents of Mehterlam as a result of the rockets and shells. In response, units of the armed forces based in Laghman Province subjected the warmonger extremists' concentrations and firing positions to crushing blows. Sixteen extremists including four assistant ringleaders, Mohammad Zafar, Haron, Jamal, and Kamal, associated with the fundamentalist group of Gulbuddin were crushed and 12 others, including ringleaders Shaykh Mangal and Nasim, were injured. Units of the armed forces had high morale and patriotism, and attacked extremists centers and trenches east of Mehterlam. They cleared eight villages of the warmongers. They have set up new security posts in those villages.

Reportage on Antigovernment Rebel Successes

Jalalabad-Kabul Posts Captured

BK0208113691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahedin raided a Kabul regime military convoy in (Dashzarghan) area and damaged two tanks and seven ammunition vehicles. The convoy was carrying supplies to Kabul. In another operation on Jalalabad-Kabul road, mujahedin captured two important regime military posts. Seventy officers along with some troopers of the regime surrendered along with four tanks and a large quantity of ammunition.

Wakhan District Seized

BK0408000291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1919 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 3 (AFP)—Afghan rebels claimed Saturday to have taken control of the district of Wakhan, in the strategic northeastern region of Pamir, bordering the Soviet Union and China.

Two rebel news agencies in Pakistan said the guerrillas captured Wakhan July 31 and government forces surrendered to mujahedin, as the rebels are known, under the command of Najmuddin Khan.

The MIDIA AGENCY said it was the first time since Soviet intervention in Afghanistan in 1979 that the rebels had reached the Chinese border.

The guerrillas also captured Sheghnan, a nearby district in the province of Badakhshan, MIDIA said, adding, without elaborating, that they had seized a "large quantity" of weapons.

Since mid-May, mujahedin factions have claimed a string of victories in northern and northeastern Afghanistan.

Resistance agencies have reported heavy fighting on the road linking the eastern city of Jalalabad with the capital Kabul.

Control of 3 Towns

BK0408114891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] The mujahedin achieved strategic successes in Badakhshan and Takhar Provinces and liberated three towns according to reports from Afghanistan. All rural areas along the Soviet Tadzhikistan border have come under mujahedin control with the seizure of these towns. Reports say that as a result of the operation launched by the mujahedin from 26 to 29 of last month, (Shah Nuzrat), a sub division of the Badakhshan Province, was liberated along with Chah Ab and (Rastak). The far-flung areas of the country have already been liberated.

Success Near Konduz Reported

BK0508102491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Mujahedin have captured the (Qaywa Khana) post south of Konduz city according to reports from Afghanistan. Along with their officers, 12 soldiers of the Kabul regime surrendered to the mujahedin. In another operation, on the outskirts of Konduz the mujahedin captured 10 Kabul soldiers who were on a routine patrol. The mujahedin also seized a sizable quantity of arms, including a rocket launcher.

150-Member Opposition Group To Surrender

LD0508061191 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0446 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, Aug. 4, BAKHTAR—A 150-member opposition group gave up armed activities in response to the national reconciliation policy (NRP) in Sar-e Pol Province recently.

A BAKHTAR military correspondent reported that the said group was warmly welcomed by state authorities and a large number of the inhabitants of that province. The welcomers described their action as a firm step towards termination of fratricidal war, ensurance of peace and calm in that province.

With the response of this group to the NRP more than 300 rpt 300 families of that province who were previously wandering in mountains have returned to their homes.

The group, in the past, was active in the Jamiat formations.

Decree Provides for Refugees' 'Safe Return'

LD0508060591 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442
GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, August 5, BAKHTAR—The RA [Republic of Afghanistan] Government has passed rules, regulations and decrees which provide adequate conditions for the safe return of refugees to their homes, says an article published by daily PAYAM today.

In this connection, President Najibollah approved decree [words indistinct] 1991, which says, inter alia that all refugees can return to their homeland safely without any fear or visit their relatives and can where ever they want.

The item 3 of the decree says that the Afghan political representatives in foreign countries are dutybound to provide passports to those refugees to return to their homes as per the Article 72 of the RA passport law or extend the duration of the passport in possession of the refugees.

The article four of the decree stresses that those who want to return to their country will be benefited from the privileges enshrined in the RA amnesty decree announced in 1991, the article says.

In response to this decree, over 580 rpt 580 Afghan refugee families comprising over 3,390 rpt 3,390 persons as well as 1,500 rpt 1,500 individuals have returned to their homeland from Pakistan, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Germany, etc.

Furthermore, another article published by daily HEWAD says that the return of refugees is increasing with every passing day. From March 20 up to June 20, 1991, in all, 15,140 rpt 15,140 refugees returned from Pakistan and Iran. So far over 300,000 rpt 300,000 refugees have returned to their motherland. The article concludes.

Bangladesh

Minister Denies Indian Leader Assassination Plan

BK0408024091 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0110 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman in a statement in Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] yesterday denied reports published in two Indian dailies that some Bangladeshi activists are planning to kill the leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, L.K. Advani. Refuting the report as baseless, the foreign minister said Bangladesh, particularly the present government, does not believe in the politics of killing and there is no question of any such activists in the country. In this connection, the foreign minister recalled the determination of the democratic governments of both Bangladesh and India in further

cementing their bilateral relations and resolving all outstanding issues through negotiations.

Foreign Secretary Seeks BCCI Reimbursement

BK0308055091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0534 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka Aug 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh's foreign secretary will seek out officials in Abu Dhabi on Saturday and ask them to reimburse money depositors lost in the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), a government official said.

Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan was stopping in Abu Dhabi on his way to Istanbul for a meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference. He also planned to brief officials there on Bangladesh's problems resulting from the suspension of operations of four BCCI branches in Bangladesh, the pro-government BANGLADESH TIMES said. The rulers of Abu Dhabi are the major share-holders in BCCI.

BCCI depositors here held a day-long hunger strike Wednesday to press Bangladesh authorities to release their money immediately. All deposits were frozen when bank operations were suspended worldwide last month.

The TIMES, quoting reliable sources, said the Dhaka government wanted BCCI to start operations again under a "reasonable and legally trouble-free scheme as well as under a sound management."

BCCI sources said Saturday they had not received any directives from the Central Bangladesh Bank to resume limited operations, possibly with a new name, as had been expected earlier. One of the schemes being considered by the government was reopening the bank under a new name, the TIMES said.

BCCI has more than 40,000 clients in Bangladesh with deposits totalling six billion taka (166 U.S. million dollars).

Constitutional Amendments Controversy Continues

Leaders Hold 'Urgent' Meeting

BK0308071691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0110 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had an urgent meeting with the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, last night and apprised him of the latest position in respect of the constitutional amendment bills. The prime minister expressed her grave concern over the political motive of a section of the members of parliament who were deliberately putting obstacles to the passage of the bills. The prime minister also sought the good offices of the acting president for a smooth passage of the two bills which were (?intended) for switching over to the parliamentary form of government.

The acting president while assuring the prime minister of [words indistinct] removing the obstacles to the transition to the parliamentary form of government categorically told that if the constitutional amendment bill for switching over to the parliamentary form of government fails, he would relinquish his office straightaway.

Among those present on the occasion included Education Minister Prof. Badruddoja Chowdhury, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, [words indistinct] and Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar.

Prime Minister Meets Rival

BK6308073091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0515 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia held an unscheduled meeting with the acting president after her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina Wajed reportedly vowed to resist the passage of crucial constitution amendment bills.

Dhaka Radio Saturday said that during the meeting late Friday, Zia briefed Shahabuddin Ahmed on the "latest position" in respect of the bills aimed at reverting Bangladesh to a parliamentary system after 16 years and allow Ahmed to return to head the country's judiciary in line with popular wishes.

She did not name Wajed or her Awami League Party, but the radio quoted her as expressing her "grave concern over the political motive of a section of the members of parliament who were deliberately putting obstacles to the passage of the bills."

The prime minister has sought the good offices of the acting president for a smooth passage of the two bills.

The acting president, while assuring Zia of his support, categorically told her that "if constitutional amendment bills...fails, he would relinquish his office straightaway," the report said.

Wajed told her supporters Friday that her Awami League would resist any move to pass the present bills as they were "provisions detrimental to (the) peoples' rights."

She criticised the provision of an open ballot for electing the president and a 10 percent quota for non-parliamentary members in the cabinet.

Analysts said that if Ahmed, who headed an interim government after President Hussain Mohammad Ershad stepped down in December following mass campaigns against his eight-year regime, resigned, the parliamentary speaker would take over as acting president until elections were held for the post.

Debate on both the bills began in parliament early this week after a joint parliamentary committee finalised them following extended discussions and negotiations.

The debate, now in its final stage, will resume Saturday, parliamentary sources said, adding that, barring surprises, the bills are scheduled to be formally put to the vote before the 330-member house Sunday or Monday and will require a two-thirds majority to pass.

The DAILY STAR newspaper said Saturday that Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party was debating if it would seek the help of Ershad's Jatiya Party (JP) in the event that the Awami League abstained from voting.

The JP had said it would support the bill if the government paroled Ershad and two other former government leaders currently in prison so they could be present in parliament during the voting.

Wajed's party Friday demanded that parliament should, along with the other two bills, pass a bill moved last week by her party calling for the repeal of a law which provides an indemnity to those responsible for a bloody 1975 coup in which her father and then president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the DAILY STAR said.

She deplored that the bill, which she said would remove all obstacles to the rule of law in Bangladesh, had not yet been put before the house for debate.

The indemnity (repeal) bill, moved as a private member's bill, is now before a parliamentary select committee, Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz said Thursday.

Sources close to the BNP alleged that Wajed and her party were trying to obstruct the smooth passage of the two bills by raising new pleas for political gains.

Awami League sources said repealing the indemnity law was a major issue in their campaign during February elections and any deviation from it would have serious repercussions for the party's rank and file. In the 330-seat house any amendment bill would need the support of at least 220 members. The BNP has 164 members, two short of a simple majority.

The league is the second largest party with 84 followed by Ershad's Jatiya Party with 31, the rightist Jamaat-e-Islami Party with 20, the pro-league Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) with five and the Krishak Samik Awami League (Baksal) with four.

Six smaller parties have one seat each and independents three. Elections for 11 vacant seats are yet to be held.

Opposition Denies Obstruction

BK0308163691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The Awami League chief and leader of opposition in Jatiya Sangsad [parliament], Sheikh Hasina, met the acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at his invitation in Dhaka today. In the discussion, the acting president referred to the apprehension of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia that the passage of constitution amendment bill was being obstructed by bringing in new issues.

The leader of the opposition said that no obstruction was being created by her party as alleged. But, she said that the constitution amendment bill contains some undemocratic provisions which her party objected to in the interest of true parliamentary democratic system. She alleged that sufficient time for a (detailed) discussion on such an important matter was not being allowed in the Sangsad. Sheikh Hasina denied that new issues were being introduced, but said that a bill for repeal of indemnity ordinance of 1975 was just sought to be introduced in the Sangsad. The Awami League chief said her party had all along been fighting for reversal to parliamentary system of government to put an end to autocratic rule in the future.

The acting president said all parties of the Sangsad must cooperate for smooth passage of the bill for reverting to parliamentary form of government, which has now become a universal demand of the people. He assured the leader of the opposition of using his good offices to achieve that national goal, failing which the entire country would fall into a grave constitutional crisis. Awami League Secretary General Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, and Abdul Momin and Mafizur Rahman, members of the party, were present during the meeting.

India

Gandhi Murder Suspects Swallow Cyanide; 1 Dead

BK0208150091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] One suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militant committed suicide, while another was battling for life after consuming cyanide capsules when the Special Investigation Team, probing the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, today raided their hideouts in Bangalore.

Rao Rules Out 'Going Back' on Economic Reforms

BK0208160791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, says there is no going back on the economic reforms. In an interview to a video magazine, he said the reforms are necessary and timely. Answering a question, Mr. Rao admitted that there may be some price rise but added that the consequences would have been much worse had the economic measures not been taken. The prime minister asserted that the economic reforms are not a deviation from the Nehruvian policy which offers enough flexibility.

Defense Minister Surveys Tamil Nadu Naval Bases

BK0308092491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The present naval bases along the Tamil Nadu coast will be strengthened to check infiltration of militants from Sri Lanka. Air and sea patrolling will also be

intensified. This was stated by the defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, at Mandapam today after he made an aerial survey of the coastal stretch from Tumbe to Rameswaram.

Talking to newsmen at Mandapam, he said he will request the External Affairs Ministry to take up with Colombo the issue of alleged harassment of Indian fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. He said the issue of giving fishing rights to Indian fishermen at Kachchaitivu will also be taken up with Colombo. He said while refugees from Sri Lanka have to be looked after on humanitarian grounds, the government has to ensure that this gesture is not misused for terrorist activities.

Mr. Pawar was accompanied in the aerial survey by the chief of the naval staff, Admiral Ram Das, and some Tamil Nadu MP's. Mr. Pawar also had detailed discussions with top naval and other officials at Uchipuli Naval Air Station and INS [Indian Naval Service] (Kattaboman) naval communication station. The representatives of fishermen's association submitted a memorandum to the minister at Mandapam demanding, among other things, release of fishermen held by the Sri Lankan Navy and the Coast Guard.

Comments on Coastal Security

BK0408042491 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that the security set up along the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu will be further strengthened by setting up five more naval detachments. The defense minister disclosed this at a press conference after his tour of the coastal areas of the state. [video shows Defense Minister Pawar addressing news conference]

[Begins correspondent recording] At a press conference in Madras, the defense minister fielded wide range of questions from the militants threat along the Tamil Nadu coast to the state of the country's armed forces. Five more naval detachments are to be deployed along the southern coast and they are expected to be in place in a week's time. The state government, he said, was serious about controlling the militants threat and the center was ready to offer the fullest support and cooperation in the matter. With increased patrolling, the refugee influx [from Sri Lanka] has come down virtually to nil in recent months. The Navy has provided support to the SIT [Special Investigation Team] investigation into the Rajiv Gandhi case and the Army was also ready to help if required.

The Armed Forces would concentrate on modernization in the coming years in view of the lessons of the recent Gulf war. Indigenization would also continue within financial constraints imposed by the recent economic problems. The country's main battle tank—the Arjun—was almost ready and expected to roll out from the Avadi factory in a week's time. [end recording]

Earlier in the day, Mr. Pawar made an aerial survey of the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu from Tondi to Rameswaram. [video shows Pawar accompanied by officials flying over coastal areas]

He also inspected the Pamban bridge connecting Mandapam and Rameswaram.

'Gun Battle' With Pakistan at Punjab Border

BK0408141291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1405 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 4 (AFP)—Indian border guards fought a gun battle with Pakistani troops on the Punjab state frontier Sunday and thwarted a bid by a group of 30 infiltrators to enter India, officials said.

India's Border Security Force (BSF) troopers and Pakistani Rangers traded heavy gunfire for about 45 minutes near the post of Abad in the Dera Baba Nanak sector of the border, BSF officials said in this Punjab holy city.

The officials accused the rangers of sparking off the fight by trying to push a group of 30 Mohajirs, Urdu-speaking settlers, into Indian territory under cover of fire.

They said the BSF suffered no casualties, adding that the rangers were spotted picking up about four of their injured men after the skirmish, which ended with the would-be infiltrators fleeing back into Pakistan.

Mohajirs are Urdu-speaking residents of Pakistan's troubled Sindh Province who trace their roots to India, where authorities report regular skirmishes between border guards on the tense frontier in Punjab and Kashmir.

Punjab Governor Resigns, Replacement Named

BK0508090791 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] The president has accepted the resignation of Mr. O.P. Malhotra, governor of Punjab. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President's House] communique said Mr. Surendra Nath has been appointed the new governor of the state. He will also function as the administrator of the union territory of Chandigarh from the date he assumes office.

Reportage on Clashes, Casualties in Punjab

2 Aug: 6 Dead

BK0208052391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0430 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, five militants and one policeman have been killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, two militants each were killed in Faridkot and Amritsar Districts, one in Jullundur District. The police recovered the dead body of a constable from Tarn Taran area of Amritsar District. He was kidnapped by militants last night.

3 Aug: 8 Killed

BK0308050891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, five militants, including one hardcore militant, were among eight people killed in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, two militants were killed in separate encounters in Bhatinda and in Rupar Districts while a hardcore militant, Manohar Singh alias Ghera, committed suicide when cornered by a police party in Amritsar District.

Meanwhile, two militants escaped from custody when the police party escorting them was ambushed by militants in Ludhiana District. One policeman was injured in the ambush.

4 Aug: 11 Dead

BK0408040291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, 10 militants and a regional manager of the Punjab National Bank are among 12 persons killed in separate incidents since yesterday. According to an official spokesman, six militants have been killed in three separate encounters and one in inter-gang rivalry in Amritsar District. Two militants, including a hardcore, were killed in Sangrur District. Elsewhere, unidentified gunmen shot dead the regional manager of the Punjab National Bank, Mr. R.K. Bedi, in Ludhiana city.

5 Aug: 6 Killed

BK0508051391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, five militants are among the six persons killed in separate incidents since last night. According to an official spokesman, three militants have been killed in Batala area of Gurdaspur—one in Beas area of Amritsar District in encounters, while one militant committed suicide by consuming poison when cornered by police in Amritsar city. A large quantity of arms and ammunition has been recovered from the killed militants.

Minister Urges Plan To Solve 'Naxalite Problems'

BK0308091091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has called for a unified plan of action for tackling the Naxalite [Maoist guerrillas] problems. Addressing a meeting of the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa in New Delhi today, Mr. Chavan said that effective interstate coordination is required to fight the menace. He said the coordination between the law and order and developmental agencies is imperative for a successful anti-Naxalite strategy. The minister said the two central teams that had gone into the problem have concluded that it is the desperation of

the poor to get social and economic justice that had led to the problem. The home minister said that a multidimensional approach is needed to tackle the problem. He said joint police command for effective communication between the states infested with this problem is needed. Mr. S.B. Chavan also emphasized the need to look into the problems in the tribal areas, and the administration should be more responsive to the needs of the affected people.

Naxalite Land Mine Kills Eight

BK0408040091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0240 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, eight policemen, including a subinspector, have been killed in a landmine blast set off by Naxalites [Maoist guerrillas] near Korodpalli in Nizamabad District. The incident occurred yesterday afternoon when the jeep carrying the police party hit the mine. While six of them died on the spot, two succumbed to their injuries later. The chief minister, Mr. Janardhan Reddy, has condemned the Naxalite attack. He also conveyed his sympathies to the members of the bereaved families.

Bank, Phone Exchange Burned in Andhra Pradesh

BK0508090391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, militants belonging to People's War Group burnt a branch of Indian bank and telephone exchange in (Paidimalgu) Village in Karimnagar District last night.

Reportage on Activities in Kashmir, Jammu

Night Curfew for Border Areas

BK0308145091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Night curfew has been imposed in the border areas of Jammu District for the next two months. A notification issued today by the district magistrate says that the curfew will be in force from 2100 till 0500 and will be operative in the areas close to the India-Pakistan border. The step has been taken to check any attempt to smuggle weapons from across the border for subversive and antinational activities.

Exchange for Oil Official

BK0308162891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Government is willing to release two militants and three others on bail for the simultaneous exchange of the Indian Oil Corporation [IOC] executive director, Mr. K. Doraiswamy. Official sources said in New Delhi that the state government is committed to the offer and is awaiting the response from the kidnappers. The sources said a bail application for

the release of Javed Ahmad Shalla will be moved in the court and the government will not oppose it. The intermediary who carried the government offer of simultaneous release has not come back so far with the response from the abductors.

The Indian Oil Officers Association has threatened to disrupt supply of petroleum products to Jammu and Kashmir in case any harm is done to the IOC executive director, Mr. K. Doraiswamy. In a press release in Bombay today, the association made a fervent appeal to the militants to release Mr. Doraiswamy unconditionally.

Appeal by Arrested Militants

BK0408160891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Several arrested Kashmiri militants have appealed to their leaders to start a dialogue with the government and prevent further bloodshed in Kashmir valley. In an open letter to Yasin Malik, Shabir Shah, and former MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] Syed Ali Shah Gilani, the terrorists lodged in a jail in Jammu have said the two years of militancy has clearly established that guns are no answer to the Kashmir problem. The letter goes on to say that if bloodshed is not stopped now, future generations will never forgive us. A copy of the letter is also addressed to the state governor.

Iran

Nuclear Energy Chief Denies Weapons Capability

LD0308170191 Tehran IRNA in English 1309 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 3, IRNA—Head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization (IAEO) Reza Amrollahi Saturday reiterated that "Iran is not capable of making atomic bombs" thus refuting recent allegations by Western news media in this connection as "baseless".

"Our objective in promoting nuclear industries is merely its peaceful use specially in the field of atomic energy and its application in agriculture and medicine," Amrollahi stressed.

He noted that owners of nuclear industries and the superpowers were throwing obstacles "on our way and those of the Third World countries in order to hold these industries in their own control." However, he added, "with regard to political issues, our grave responsibility is quite clear."

Amrollahi was speaking at the inaugural session of the 23rd nationwide training course for protection against rays.

Rafsanjani Receives North Korean Vice Premier

LD0408102391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani this morning received Kim Tai-hyon, vice premier of North Korea. At the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Torkan, minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics, the vice premier of North Korea pointed to the many years of bilateral cooperation and said: Mr. Kim Il-song, the leader of North Korea, continues to refer to the Islamic revolution of Iran as a great revolution that the people of Iran brought to victory by relying on the ideology of Islam. Speaking of his country's desire for unity between the two Korean states, he submitted a report on the latest efforts concerning this matter. At the end of his speech, he called for the ever-greater expansion of economic, political, and cultural ties between the two countries. He further expressed Kim Il-song's desire to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran on the basis of the president's invitation.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said: The Islamic Republic of Iran continues to regard North Korea as a friendly country. We welcome the continuation and expansion of relations in all fields. Referring to the proposal for Korean unity, the president said: We support that proposal and hope that the talks between the two countries for the implementation of the proposal are realized.

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his pleasure over Kim Il-song's trip to our country and said: We hope to greet him as soon as possible in Tehran.

Majles Speaker Holds Contact

LD0408140391 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] In a meeting with Majles Speaker Karrubi today, North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tai-hyon welcomed the expansion of friendly ties between Iran and Korea and, praising the Iranian people's efforts to maintain peace and establish calm in the region, he briefed Karrubi on that country's situation, unity between the two Koreas, and U.S. conspiracies against that country.

The Majles speaker then expressed hope that, in view of the close ties between Iran and Korea and the joint commission which is to be held in the near future, ties between the two countries will expand even further. Mr. Karrubi stressed the ever-increasing importance of cooperation and coordination between independent, revolutionary, free, and anti-imperialist countries for the sake of preserving their existence and independence. He added: Security has been denied to countries of the region because of the expansionist policies of the United States, events brought by Iraq in the Persian Gulf region, and because of the events taking place in the occupied

territories and the cruelty and oppression inflicted on Palestinians. Countries have no option but to stand up to the policies of the United States.

The Majles speaker expressed the hope that unity between the two Koreas will be realized as soon as possible.

Velayati Speaks Before Departing for Istanbul

LD0208112791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] As you were informed earlier in the newscast, today Mr. Velayati left for Istanbul, Turkey, at the head of a delegation to participate in the meeting of Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] foreign ministers. In an interview with our reporter, he said that important issues are on the agenda of the ICO meeting, adding that the Islamic Conference should understand the current world situation correctly and that it should adopt suitable and correct stances in line with developments taking place in the world.

Referring to the fact that under the new world polarization some superpowers are bent on imposing their wishes on the entire world, Mr. Velayati said: That is a dangerous phenomenon. The world of Islam must definitely adopt a suitable response toward such a move; it must adopt the necessary measures toward a correct and defensible position for the world of Islam.

Referring to the spread of Islamic movements all over the world, Mr. Velayati said that the Muslims of the world are fully aware, more than ever. He said that world Muslims will no longer surrender their fate to be manipulated by the foreigners as in the past. He said the Muslims should find their lofty status in the world of today, and that universal demand of the Muslim nations must be reflected in the ICO meeting and its decisions.

On the debate on Palestine at the ICO and the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran toward that, Mr. Velayati said:

[Begin Velayati recording] As in the past, today the stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Palestine remain solid, clear, decisive, and strong. We seriously and decisively oppose what some are bent on imposing on the people of Palestine—something that in fact amounts to a kind of compromising of Islamic aspirations of the people of Palestine. We shall explain our points of view forcefully on various platforms. Perhaps one of the most suitable international gatherings is the Islamic Conference—a conference that must adopt a fundamental decision on Palestine. The compromising trend that one can see in the region is very much to be regretted. The territory of Palestine belongs to the people of Palestine, and the spokesmen for the Palestinians are those very people who continue their manly uprising in the occupied territories under the intense pressure of Zionist executioners. They vehemently reject any kind of

compromise. Nothing short of the liberation of the entire territory of Palestine from the occupation of the Zionists can be acceptable to the Islamic Republic—we accept no way and no formula except that Palestine territory be liberated from the yoke of the occupation of the Zionists and be returned to its original owners, who are the people of Palestine. [end recording]

Meanwhile, referring to the stances of the various other countries on Palestine, our country's foreign minister said: The Government of Syria has demonstrated in the past that it would honor the principles that it previously stated on Palestine. Our long experience with the Government of Syria is that it has always moved within a principled framework on Palestine. In talks that we will have with Mr. Faruq al-Shar', we will be more informed of their stances. Our hope is that Syria will continue its principled stances on Palestine, as in the past.

Musavi-Ardebili Leads Friday Prayers

LD0208113191 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0930 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili in today's Tehran Friday prayer sermons referred to the anniversary of the Iraqi Army's military invasion of Kuwait, terming it as a crisis guided by America which served the imperialist interests of America in the region and in the world.

The substitute Friday prayer imam of Tehran said: Pursuing those goals, America sent a military expedition to the region to treat its own economic and political problems. He added: Taking advantage of the crisis, and to protect the cancerous tumor of Israel, America raises the Middle East disarmament plan and brings the Arab reactionary countries to the negotiation table to make them submit over the Palestine issue.

Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili pointed to the disagreement of the Islamic nations of the region with the plans that the heads of a number of states have agreed to. He said: No doubt the heads of state will not be able to silence their nations. The substitute Friday imam of Tehran said: What are they going to do with hearts that are full of hatred against Israel and America?

He lauded the Islamic Republic of Iran's stances on the regional situation, saying: Our government has implemented its obligations in the best possible manner, and its rightful positions are approved by every individual of our nation. Referring to the ever-expanding influence of the Islamic revolution among Muslims, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili noted that the world of Islam, and the Muslim revolutionaries in particular, continue to feel responsible and dutybound toward the issue of Palestine. They will always continue their struggle against America and the regime occupying Jerusalem side by side with the oppressed people and the Muslim strugglers of Palestine.

The substitute Friday imam of Tehran also expounded on economic issues, mentioning that the world is facing economic problems. He added: Paying attention to all aspects of the current situation, economic experts should find a practical solution to economic problems. He stressed the importance of increasing the supply of domestic products and urged the people to economize and shun consumption of luxury and unnecessary items. Ayatollah Musavi-Ardebili called for the cooperation of the media in this regard and termed their role constructive.

He said the satisfactory and appropriate use of the country's agricultural resources, alongside the country's industrial progress, is one of the most important matters in economic issues. He emphasized that no country is capable of achieving a satisfactory economic situation without possessing a sound agricultural foundation.

Second Sermon on Gulf, Palestinians

LD0208144891 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
1107 GMT 2 Jul 91

[Second Friday sermon by Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardebili in Tehran on 2 August—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] My second sermon is on an issue that concerns all Muslims, a problem that makes blood flow in every Muslim's heart. It makes them worried and irate. It is the situation of Islamic countries in the region and the dangerous games that world arrogance has started to play against Islam. At their helm is the United States of America.

The United States created the Persian Gulf crisis. Everyone can understand that this crisis is not natural, it is a controlled crisis. It is being controlled by America. This is one of the games played by world imperialism and used for quite some time in the world. Sometimes, to solve their own problems, they create a crisis in the world or the region, then they jump on the bandwagon of that crisis. They then solve their problem and control the crisis. America had a difficulty with Europe, it solved that problem through the Persian Gulf crisis. The United Nations, the Security Council, etc., they all stepped aside and America became the sole power. It had economic difficulties and it solved them. It had the problem of old weapons in East Germany [as heard] and the like, the United States solved them, too. It no longer needed Iraq, the same Iraq that it had created as a thorn in the side of Iran, and so the United States left Iraq half dead. It brought its forces to Islamic countries, to the region of energy. America achieved all its objectives. America was the absolute conqueror.

Now the losers: Islamic countries were the losers. They are now in trouble. The United States wants to fire its last shot. It wants to put an illegitimate child on our path: Israel. It wants to provide for Israel's security. It wants to make it the absolute lord of the region so we become the servant of the servant of America. Israel is America's

servant, we are to become Israel's servant. This is what it is doing, and using Muslims themselves. It has gathered a bunch of Palestinians, a bunch of reactionary Arab rulers, and a bunch of people at its service. They have decided to compromise, put aside all the fighting and officially recognize Israel. They have betrayed the innocent blood of the Palestinians.

This is what is amazing. America says: You have no right to have long-range weapons. In this region, only one country can have them, and that country is Israel. It can hit Tehran from Tel Aviv, but you have no right to have missiles with a range of 60 km or 70 km. This Kalashnikov is enough for you. This is what America is doing. Islamic countries, Arab countries can...[sentence unfinished] Muslims can see, they are crying blood, their lives are being torn apart. However, this course of action is progressing everyday in the way they, the Americans, want.

A few days ago, the esteemed leader [Khamene'i] spoke about this issue clearly. That was the word of every Muslim who has an ounce of Islamic honor in his heart.

The issue primarily is whether that is an achievable project or not? Let us suppose favorably. Mubarak, this one and that one, they all come and join hands with Bush and recognize Israel as their masters. Then what are they planning to do with their nations? The ones confronting Israel are the nations. Let us suppose that Mr. 'Arafat comes and says he is ready and is prepared to recognize and negotiate with Israel. Are all Palestinians prepared to do the same? Are all Lebanese prepared to do the same? Are all Iraqis prepared to do the same? Are all Jordanians prepared to do the same? Are all non-Arab Muslims prepared to do the same? What are they going to do with the hearts that are full of hatred for Israel, the hearts that are full of enmity toward Israel and America?

Let them go and meet and make arrangements and give promises and receive assurances. But it is impossible for them to silence, with a couple of signatures, that Palestinian whose father has been killed, or that Lebanese who has been made homeless. [participants chant: God is the greatest, Khamene'i is the leader, Down with those opposing the guardianship of the jurisconsult, Down with America, Down with the hypocrites and Saddam, Down with Israel]

I think we must never say that now everything has finished and nothing else can be done. All preliminary matters have been prepared. Tomorrow or the day after they gather together, not letting those opposing them to join them. They gather around them all those who are in agreement with them and draw up a regional accord, Israel also signs it, and that would be an end to Islam, struggle, revolution, uprising, and such things. Those are not things that can be ended. [passage omitted]

If they do not include the people, if they do not give Palestinians their rights, if others come and sign on their behalf and as their guardians, stepping over their blood, their goals, their Islamic land, and make deals over them,

then the hue and cry will not end and the region will not see the sign of security. The Algerian nation has started, the Egyptian nation has started.

We have so far treaded along our path appropriately. We have recognized our responsibilities and implemented our obligations. We spoke when we should have. We fought when we should have. When it was time for us to chant slogans, we chanted slogans. When it was time for us to enter a conflict, we entered it. So far, Almighty be praised, we have remained under the banner of Islam and from now on, God willing, our nation, our people, Muslims, the families of the martyrs, the dear people, the Basijis [mobilization forces], the dear Iranians, feel the same kind of responsibility as they felt previously. We will all, men and women alike, remain alongside the real Muslims who feel responsibility toward Islam and confront global arrogance and sacrifice their lives and wealth of God. [passage omitted]

Commentaries View Developments in Peace Process

LD0308210391 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English* 1830 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, following his meeting with the Palestinian figures in Jerusalem, left for Amman yesterday to hold talks with Jordanian officials on the current efforts aimed at convening the Middle East peace conference and overcoming the problems in its way. In the wake of the Bush-Gorbachev meeting in Moscow, the U.S. secretary of state last Thursday began his sixth shuttle to the Middle East since the termination of the Persian Gulf war, with a visit to Jerusalem, to get the Zionists' consent to attend the peace talks scheduled for this October. The stage for convening the Middle East peace conference has been already agreed to by George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev.

The U.S. peace plan is still ambiguous and unclear, despite a positive response from Yitzhaq Shamir on attending the conference and also a positive but conditional response from the Palestinian figures concerning it. [Word indistinct] the Zionist regime's [words indistinct] of its officials in this conference does not convey acceptance of the other side's terms on the evacuation of the occupied lands, suspension of the construction of joint settlements in those regions, and the participation of the Palestinian team having a thinking independent from that of Israel. Hence, despite the U.S. officials' optimism about the progress of the peace efforts, one cannot conclude any results from those efforts.

In this midst, the Israeli officials—by making statements about Tel Aviv's participation in the peace conference; it's nonwithdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights; opposing an independent Palestinian team's presence in these peace talks; and also (?publicizing) the views of radical factions within the Zionist ruling clique—are seeking to secure further concessions from the other side and also more guarantees

from America and its allies. In this respect, the issue (?faced) by George Bush in winning the next U.S. presidential elections, too, cannot be ignored because of his insistence on holding this conference [words indistinct] peace efforts. These are crucial issues for the Israelis, and they are pinning their hopes on them.

Current Middle East tour of James Baker to the region is mostly related to discussing the form and composition of the Palestinian team to attend the peace conference. The PLO, through the Palestinian figures who met with Baker in East Jerusalem yesterday, presented a plan calling for the enforcement of UN Security Council's Resolutions 242 and 338, participation of the PLO representatives together with a Palestinian delegate from Jerusalem, and the suspension of the construction of Jewish settlements. The Palestinian figures, however, cautioned Baker against the dangers arising out of the unquestionable U.S. backing for the Zionist regime.

Despite positive replies received from the Arab states on the enforcement of the U.S. peace plan in the region, if the peace efforts are not coupled with U.S. pressure on Israel for accepting and implementing the Security Council resolutions, the present process will not go beyond the conclusion of another Camp David accord in the region.

Motives Behind Conference Criticized

NC0308092691 *Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian*
0330 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] In the name of God. The proposal for the convening of the Middle East peace conference or the conference of compromise among the Arab and Zionist governments, for which the United States is making its utmost efforts, has entered a new preliminary phase for its implementation in the wake of the U.S. President's visit to Moscow and the eliciting of Gorbachev's cooperation.

The United States and the Soviet Union have decided on joint efforts to hold the conference this fall. For this purpose the U.S. secretary of state has commenced his sixth visit to the Middle East and the Soviet foreign minister has promised that he soon will make a similar visit.

A point worth noting about the present juncture in the political activities regarding the Arab-Israeli issue is the ostensibly successful trend toward consolidating the Israeli stance toward the Arab governments with U.S. and Soviet support.

During Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, the United States—under the aegis of what it termed Iraq's threat to Arab countries—was able to wrest control of most of their affairs, including their demands regarding the despotic Israeli Government. In view of the allied victory over

Iraq, spearheaded by the United States on the one hand and requests by allied leaders that the Zionist regime use restraint in the oil war on the other, put the United States and the Zionist regime in a position to implement their mutual plans in their entirety, against the world of Islam.

Immediately after the end of the oil war, Bush presented his plan of territory for peace and promised the world—without any practical display of willingness or any step toward attaining peace by the Zionist regime—that he would solve the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Baker's numerous trips to the Middle East aimed more at undermining the stances of most Arab governments seeking a new status quo in the current international atmosphere than at liberating parts of the occupied territories, such as the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon. Finally, with the attainment of conducive conditions such as the readiness of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] to send a representative to the peace conference, and recently the acceptance of the U.S. peace plan by Syria, Middle East currents continue to flow satisfactorily for the U.S. and Israeli echelons.

This comes when Jewish emigration from Africa and elsewhere continues with heightened intensity and in tandem with billions of dollars in U.S. aid—verbally or in actuality—to the Zionist regime for constructing Jewish settlements.

Following events such as the dismemberment of the Eastern bloc, Moscow is no longer viewed as a rival in regional disputes by the leaders in Washington. In light of its internal difficulties and the need to preserve cordial ties with the United States and European countries, Moscow extinguished its political stances against Tel Aviv and in practice moved toward mending fences with the Zionist capital.

With utter acquiescence to the demands of the Israeli leaders on the priority of resuming relations with the Soviet Union, which were severed after the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, Moscow's practical initiative in this regard bestowed on Israel the greatest political victory. For this purpose, Soviet Foreign Minister Bessmertnykh soon will depart for Tel Aviv with documents for reopening its embassy in the Israeli capital.

Even though the Kremlin leaders have boosted the position of the Zionist regime by permitting the free emigration of Jews to occupied Palestine, it appears that the Israeli regime's expectations from the Soviet Union will not stop at this. With the official reopening of the Soviet Embassy in occupied Palestinian territory, Israel will exert greater pressure on the Soviet Union to consolidate its stance.

At present the main impediment to convening the peace conference is Israel's rejection of the composition of the Palestinian delegation—whether it should be comprised of representatives from East Jerusalem or the PLO. The

Zionist regime considers the eastern part of Jerusalem an inseparable part of Israel and its residents as Israelis.

The PLO, which has announced its readiness for talks with the Zionist regime, continues to be a victim of indifference by the United States and the Zionist regime. In view of the stances of most of the Arab governments toward the PLO—including Saudi Arabia in its capacity as the GCC representative to the upcoming peace conference—which claim that Palestinian representatives' participation is not necessary in the peace conference, it appears that the plight of the Palestinians will continue as before, even after the political collusion.

In any case, the Palestinian issue and the homelessness of millions of Palestinians all over the world and the issue of Jerusalem and its Islamic identity are not issues which are being given priority in this clamor for a peace conference. In the view of the artificial peace-seeking atmosphere that has been cast on the region, Israel is seeking to impose its existence on the world of Islam. What is assisting Israel and its allies in this objective is, according to the great leader of the Islamic revolution, the absence of the Muslim and Arab nations from the scene and their lack of support for their regimes.

If the current regional conditions continue and the roles of the people and their Islamic aspirations continue to be victims of indifference by their leaders, the next chapter of regional trends will be marked by an increase in the instability of Arab governments and regimes. Nations will never tolerate the humiliating talks between the Arabs and Israel.

Consequences of Iraqi Invasion of Kuwait Viewed

LD0308104591 Tehran IRIB Television First
Program Network in Persian 1705 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A year ago, Iraq, by launching a military attack against Kuwait, brought that country under its total occupation. Although the allied forces put an end to that occupation in seven months, by means of war, thus restoring the region's former geographical borders, the consequences of that aggression affected more than Iraq and Kuwait, the two protagonists. They disrupted the political-military equations of the region and, to a certain extent, of the world. [passage omitted] Iraq, in effect, lost its independence on the basis of the cease-fire agreement, unable to carry out any action without coordinating with the allies. Kuwait, too, after the end of the war, was in no better situation than Iraq. [passage omitted]

The oil war has also had important consequences on the regional level. The Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and the Arab emirates' call on U.S. forces have so far—in view of the military victory of the allies and the defeat of Iraq—caused the further political dependence of the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf and the region on the United States, providing the Western forces with a pretext for their permanent presence in the countries of the region. Furthermore, this adventurism of the Ba'athist

government in Baghdad has caused the extensive destruction of the military might of Iraq and several Arab countries, disrupting the military balance of the region—in terms of the Arab-Israel equation—in favor of the Zionist regime, a disruption that has initiated a series of other developments in the region. The United States, under the pretext of preventing an outbreak of further aggression and war in the Middle East, is implementing a plan aimed at disarming this oil-rich and Islamic region—with the exception of Israel—thus extending its total hegemony over the world's greatest energy reserves. This plan, the preliminaries of which have already been drawn up, in addition to threatening the independence of the countries in question will also render them intensely vulnerable in terms of defense and security, thus divesting them of any kind of authority in selecting the price of oil, which is the principle objective of the United States.

Parallel with the shift in the region's military balance of power, and America's attempt at disarming the Islamic countries of the Middle East, the United States, the staunch supporter of Israel, by relying on its victory in the Persian Gulf war and its outcome has initiated an effort toward resolving the Palestine crisis, which has so far produced no results other than concessions granted by Arab governments to Israel. If such efforts end in the realization of Washington's intended objectives, it is predicted that the Arab countries will officially recognize the presence of the Zionist regime. In this case the state of hostility between the Arab governments and Israel will give way to cooperation and amity. In the opinion of political analysts, however, even with the signing of a peace agreement it seems unlikely that the region will accept the presence of the illegitimate Zionist regime, or that the region will regain its tranquillity.

Disregarding these changes, the operations for the liberation of Kuwait, according to the statistics, required expenditure amounting to \$61 billion, \$43 billion of which the Arabs have undertaken to pay. This sum, while squandering the huge wealth of the Islamic world, and preventing the Islamic countries from reaping the fruits of that wealth, has for the first time forced Kuwait and Arabia to take loans from abroad. The war between the two Arab countries of Iraq and Kuwait also left its destructive impact upon the Arab world. The polarization of the Arab countries—in support of Iraq or Kuwait—threw the Arab world into unprecedented disarray, damaging its ideals of unity and cooperation. This disarray in the Arab world has not only rendered impossible the attainment of harmony and unity in the Arab community for very many years, but has also disrupted all steps hitherto taken to that end, giving way instead to war and hostility.

The Iraqi aggression against Kuwait also left its mark on the international level, playing a fundamental role in expediting the shaping of the new international order, as desired by Washington. The United States, by identifying the necessary levers for gaining the leading and determining role in the future international order, has

handled the crisis in such a way as to enable Washington to prepare the preliminary groundwork for controlling such an order. The White House ringleaders, by controlling the world's biggest energy reserves—considered to be the momentum behind the world economy—by taking control of the most attractive and tempting markets of the region, pushing aside their economic rivals, and ultimately by imposing their military superiority in the Persian Gulf war, intended to establish their domination over the capitalist camp, and the so-called new international order. The U.S. design for this world order is to draw up a solution for the Arab-Israeli quarrel, and then to create a regional security system.

The Persian Gulf crisis and war began as a result of the Iraq regime's aggression, and the Baghdad regime has now experienced the fruits of its aggression. Unfortunately, however, the aggressive nature does not allow its possessors to learn lessons from history. Today, the Middle East and the international scene are witness to the aggressive actions of the United States and its allies in the region—at the head of which is the Zionist regime—which, ignoring the rights of the nations, continue to stride along the path of aggression. In an era in which the wills of nations have become manifest, however, imposing themselves over the powers and the trend of developments, such policies will undoubtedly not be tolerated, and aggression will not escape a speedy response from nations.

Nepal & Bhutan

Thousands of Civil Servants Demonstrate

BK0408151091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1424 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Kathmandu, Aug. 4 (AFP)—The Nepalese Civil Servants' Organisation (NCSO) held demonstrations here Sunday, as thousands carried burning candles to demand justice from the government.

Dhanendra Ghimire, who has participated in negotiations, said the two sides met again for a fourth day Sunday in an attempt to stop disturbances by non-official grade civil servants pressing for better allowances.

But "so far we have failed to solve our five week agitations," he said.

"Contrary to our expectations, the official team told us to withdraw our agitation immediately as a precondition for the dialogue. If the government's attitude remains the same on Monday, then it is no use meeting the official delegation."

Meanwhile, the leftist paramedical association met with the health minister, Ram Badan Yadav, to demand the release of the association's president and the general secretary of a nurses' association arrested Friday.

"If our demand is not fulfilled soon we will observe a general strike in all the (hospital) outpatients departments from Tuesday," in defiance of a ban on strikes in essential services, an association spokesman said.

King of Bhutan Postpones 5 Aug Visit to India

BK0508055491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 5 Aug 91

[Text] The visit of King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan has been postponed. He was scheduled to arrive in New Delhi this morning. According to official sources this follows a bereavement in the king's family.

Pakistan

Former Minister Demands Sharif Resignation

BK0208160091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the former interior minister and member of the ruling Islami Jamhoori Ittehad, Mian Zahid Sarfraz, has demanded dismissal of the Nawaz Sharif government and installation of a national government comprising all political parties in its place. Mian Sarfraz called upon the president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, today and made this demand.

Later, addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Mr. Sarfraz said the law and order situation in the country has further deteriorated under the present regime. He supported the move by the opposition People's Democratic Alliance led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto to go for hunger strikes in all major cities of Pakistan on Sunday in protest against the passage of the controversial 12th amendment act.

Meanwhile, the Pakistani penal code is to be amended to award death sentence to those making derogatory remarks about the holy prophet. This was decided at a meeting of the federal Cabinet in Islamabad yesterday.

Former Official Admits Last Elections 'Rigged'

BK0408160491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the former political adviser to the chief minister of Punjab, Mr. Naved Malik, has made a public confession that he was part of the machinery set up to rig the general elections held in October last year. Addressing a press conference in Islamabad, Mr. Malik said at least 42 National Assembly seats were blatantly rigged when intelligence reports indicated that the People's Democratic Alliance led by Ms. Benazir Bhutto would win a majority of the seats. He disclosed that the counting in the constituencies of senior leaders like Khan Abdul Wali Khan, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, and Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan was manipulated to ensure their defeat.

Bhutto, PDA Leaders Begin Hunger Strike*BK0408114291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in English 1100 GMT 4 Aug 91*

[Text] PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] central leaders and some MNA's [members of National Assembly] began a 12-hour hunger strike in front of the parliament house in Islamabad this morning against the 12th constitutional amendment and what they called undemocratic policies of the government. They are Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Malik Qasim, Mr. Mohammad Afzal Khan, Syed Munir Hussain Gilani, and Mr. Anwar Ali Akhundzada. Along with them, a number of workers of the component parties of the alliance are also observing the strike. In Lahore, Karachi and Peshawar, similar hunger strikes were staged near the assembly buildings.

Situation 'Peaceful and Life Normal'*BK0408154491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Aug 91*

[Text] The People's Democratic Alliance [PDA] observed a token hunger strike in a number of cities against the endorsement of the 12th constitutional amendment. A number of PDA leaders assembled in front of the parliament building in Islamabad and began the hunger strike. Benazir Bhutto Sahiba, the cochairperson of Pakistan People's Party; Afzal Khan, the deputy leader of the opposition in the National Assembly; Retired Air Marshal Asghar Khan; Syed Iftikhar Hussain Gilani; Aitjaz Ahsan; Yusuf Raza Gilani and Syed Ahmed Alam Anwar observed the strike. They stayed under a tent with party workers and criticized the government for what they termed as its refusal to accept the demands.

The Islamabad administration relaxed Section 144 [which bans assembly of more than four persons] so as to facilitate the peaceful observance of the hunger strike. The token strike also took place in the provincial capitals of Punjab, Sindh, North-West Frontier Province and Balochistan. The strike was observed in front of provincial assembly buildings in most places. The situation in general remained peaceful and life normal everywhere.

Hundreds Arrested in Sindh*BK0408123691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1221 GMT
4 Aug 91**[By Sami Zubeiri]*

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 4 (AFP)—Former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who led an unprecedented daylong hunger strike by the Pakistani opposition here Sunday, said she wanted a peaceful change of government in the country.

While Bhutto was fasting in front of the parliament here, party sources said police arrested hundreds of activists of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) in her home province of Sindh.

"We would like to bring change as peacefully as we can," she stressed, rejecting the nine-month-old government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif as "unrepresentative."

She also lashed out at President Ghulam Isahaq Khan, who sacked her one year ago on charges of mismanagement, saying that the 76-year-old leader has turned a blind eye to abuses of power by her successor.

Talking to AFP at her camp packed with several thousand fast participants, she said, "We have launched our campaign with a hunger strike and we will be slowly, slowly building up the tempo."

Clashes were reported in small towns of the troubled south where police used tear gas and charged pro-PPP crowds with batons.

The strike in major cities was jointly sponsored by leaders of the four-party People's Democratic Alliance (PDA), headed by Bhutto, to press a demand to revoke last month's constitutional amendment introducing measures aimed at curbing lawlessness.

A surge in crime recently spread from Bhutto's own Sindh Province and engulfed the populous Punjab, spreading panic and forcing Sharif to cancel a trip to Japan and Hong Kong in early July.

Besides allegations of abuse of power, the situation in Sindh was cited as the root cause of the dismissal of Bhutto's 20-month-old government.

Bhutto, 38, calling the new rules "black laws," has said the amassing of extraordinary judicial powers by the federal government was tantamount to imposing "civil martial law" in the country.

The 12th amendment in the country's 1973 constitution, passed by parliament without debate last month, curtails the power of superior courts to intervene in criminal cases, which will now be decided by special courts.

The new laws authorize sentences ranging from imprisonment to death for crimes such as banditry, kidnapping for ransom and terrorism.

Under the new laws, Islamabad can declare any district a "terrorist-prone area" and, withdrawing provincial control over law and order, it can despatch troops to the areas.

Bhutto said the strike was staged to protest victimisation of PPP workers in Sindh and voiced anguish over repression unleashed against political opponents.

"The country is suffering under this unrepresentative government which has torn the constitution," the former premier said.

"We took up this very peaceful way of demonstrating our anger when the government did not respond to our overtures in the parliament," she said.

Bhutto said the 12-hour token strike was the beginning of a campaign against "persecution" of her party workers. Party sources said she would hold a public meeting in the Punjab capital of Lahore on August 14, the country's independence day.

The strike, while intensifying the opposition's campaign against the government, was also aimed at restoring confidence among PPP workers dejected after the party's election defeat last year.

Party sources said there had been complaints that the PPP leadership were resorting to drawing room politics.

Persistent demands for a reorganisation followed the party's poor showing in the October 24 polls, although the PDA, which secured 45 seats in the 217-member lower house, disputed the election results, charging the president and the bureaucracy of depriving Bhutto of victory through "massive fraud."

Party sources, commenting on the bickering, said the city chiefs were often feudal leaders who distanced themselves from ordinary workers, adding that the gap widened further because of a lack of access to local leaders in the post-election period.

Several thousand people joined Bhutto in Islamabad and hundreds participated in the provincial capitals of Karachi and Lahore.

Some leaders appeared disappointed that the turnout was not massive in Islamabad. "We expected a bigger crowd," a senior PPP leader told AFP here, but Bhutto shrugged it off.

"If we had desired a big crowd we would not have selected Islamabad. We knew that it was a bureaucratic city."

The government, after tense negotiations with PDA leaders Saturday, allowed PPP processions to enter the capital through a selected route guarded by police armed with canes and tear gas shells.

Muhajir Qaumi Movement Criticizes Hunger Strike

BK0408035491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 4 Aug 91

[Text] Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] Chief Altaf Hussain criticized the appeal for a hunger strike given by the co-chairperson of the Pakistan People's Party. In a television interview last night, he said Ms. Benazir Bhutto is trying to create chaos. He added that by announcing the hunger strike, Ms. Benazir Bhutto proved to the world that she does not believe in the supremacy of law.

The MQM chief said the bill for a 12th amendment to the Constitution [giving extraordinary powers to the

prime minister to set up special courts to punish sensational crimes] was overwhelmingly approved in the National Assembly and the Senate because the Islamic Democratic Alliance government, led by the prime minister, sincerely desires peace in the country. He said the MQM unflinchingly supported the prime minister because he is sincere and he has no personal ambitions. Altaf Hussain said his party fully supports the government's revolutionary measures and it will also continue to support the prime minister.

Federal Interior Minister Chaudhry Shujat Hussain hopes that the People's Democratic Alliance leadership will fully observe the law during their hunger strike today. Talking to the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad yesterday, he said the government cannot be cowed as it is very strong politically and can deal with the dirty machinations of the opposition.

PPP Leaders Express Allegiance to Sindh Chief

BK0208162391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] An 18-member delegation comprising members of the National Assembly and Sindh provincial assembly and other leaders belonging to the Pakistan People's Party [PPP] called on Sindh Chief Minister Jam Sadiq Ali in Karachi today and expressed their confidence in the chief minister's leadership and allegiance to him. During the meeting, the PPP leaders said that they have been frustrated with the policies and the leadership of their party and therefore decided to support Jam Sadiq Ali so as to strengthen his government and to ensure the prosperity of the province and its people. Jam Sadiq Ali thanked the leaders for their support and reaffirmed his pledge to continue efforts to serve Pakistan and the people of Sindh.

Later, in a joint statement, the PPP leaders said that the policy of confrontation adopted by the PPP leadership and its attempt to destabilize the democratic process is a matter of great concern for them as this caused grave anxiety among the PPP quarters, especially among the workers who feel that the party is deviating from its basic principles. The party's bankruptcy was clearly exposed during the recent by-election at PF-14 Jacobabad constituency during which the party chose to willingly support a candidate who was expelled from the PPP and who had been openly criticizing PPP policies for the last several years. The party's inability to comprehend the problems of the people of Sindh and its total failure to formulate a party program to deal with these problems also contributed to the leaders' disillusionment. They said that at a time when the democratic process is taking root and the efforts by the Sindh government to restore law and order is proving fruitful, appeals are being made suddenly to observe a hunger strike on Sunday [4 August]. The sole objective behind this is to create an issue of law and order and to obstruct the growth of the

current democratic process, thereby creating an impression of uncertainty which is not in the interest of the people of Sindh or Pakistan.

The statement said that they have been observing the efforts being made by the present government of Sindh to restore peace and security in the province. Apart from this, they also reviewed the steps taken by the provincial government to stabilize democratic institution, which are necessary for national integrity and stability. The massive developmental activities being carried out by the Jam Sadiq Ali government will bring prosperity to the people of Sindh.

The PPP leaders endorsed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's policies for the country. Those who met the chief minister include members of the National Assembly Abdullah Halipota, Bashir Halipota, Malik Asad Sikander, Bhagwan Das Chawla, and Kishan Chand Parwana. Among the provincial assembly members were Khan Mohammad Dawri, Sardar Haji Khan Sata, Haji Ghulam Hussain Unnar, Syed Ejaz Ali Shah Shirazi, Mir Mohammad Hayat Talpur, Amir Bux Junejo, Mohammad Hanif Sogo, Mohammad Siddiq Shoro, Manzurul Islam Sarwat, and Amir Hasan Khan Khoso. Among other PPP leaders who called on Jam Sadiq Ali include Syed Hussain Shah Bukhari, Hyderabad divisional chief of the PPP; Mohammad Ashfaq Siddiq, central secretary general of Sindh People's Youth Organization; and Abdul Ghafur Nizami, chief of the PPP of Badin District.

Foreign Secretary General Leaves for Ankara

BK0108112491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 1 Aug 91

[Text] The secretary general, foreign affairs, Mr. Akram Zaki, has left Karachi for Ankara on his way to Istanbul to participate in the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] foreign ministers' conference beginning there on Sunday.

Senate Leader To Lead Delegation on PRC Visit

BK0308163891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 3 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 3 (AFP)—Pakistan is to send a high-level delegation to China next week to discuss Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's proposal for a regional treaty on nuclear non-proliferation, it was reported here Saturday.

Senate Chairman Wasim Sajjad will leave for Beijing on August 11 at the head of the Pakistani delegation, which will include Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Akram Zaki, the local English-language daily THE NEWS said.

The delegation will discuss Sharif's June 6 initiative envisaging bilateral and multilateral negotiations to declare South Asia a nuclear-free zone.

Sharif has proposed that the United States and the Soviet Union should discuss with their respective allies, India and Pakistan, and the region's other power, China, the possibility of reaching an arrangement to eliminate nuclear weapons from Southeast Asia.

Sajjad visited Washington last month for similar discussions with the American leaders while Zaki was in Paris recently for talks with French officials.

The Pakistani initiative follows Washington's ban on military and economic aid on suspicion that Islamabad was pursuing a weapons-oriented nuclear programme.

Pakistan insists that its nuclear programme is peaceful but has vowed not to abandon it unless its traditional rival India opens its nuclear installations for international inspection.

India has not responded positively to the Pakistani proposal but the paper said Islamabad's efforts to convince the world that the nuclear issue in Asia should not be treated in isolation "are gaining momentum."

Quoting Foreign Ministry officials, the news said the French were receptive to Sharif's initiative and he was to dispatch another team to Moscow to explain the Pakistani stand on the issue.

Sri Lanka

Clash With LTTE at Elephant Pass Continues

'Crushing Defeat' for LTTE

BK0208111891 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Operation Balawegaya troops made rapid progress yesterday and, according to latest reports from the battlefield, had extended its area of control of just one outside 1 km from the beleaguered Elephant Pass security forces camp. [sentence as heard] Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that there was intense fighting. The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were putting up initial resistance and then retreating in the face of the superior tactics and firepower of the government troops.

The sources said the LTTE's Jaffna leader, Dinesh, who had been leading the terrorists in the battle at Elephant Pass, was critically wounded in the fighting and was now warded at the Jaffna Hospital. LTTE radio transmissions have also revealed that 12-year-old boys and 45-year-old men were being forced to fight at Elephant Pass where the LTTE is suffering a crushing defeat, the worst in its eight-year campaign of terrorism. A total of 1,354 LTTE cadres have been killed in the battle for Elephant Pass. The security forces have recovered 425 bodies.

Military Spokesman's Report

BK0308151891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1513 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Colombo, Aug 3 (AFP)—Government troop reinforcements ended a 25-day siege of a strategic army camp in northern Sri Lanka by separatist Tamil guerrillas when they successfully linked up with the beleaguered camp late Saturday, officials said.

"Operation Balawegaya (Strikeforce) entered the Elephant Pass camp at 18.40 (1310 GMT) hours," a military spokesman said here.

He said army doctors with the relief forces were treating some 55 wounded soldiers inside the camp before evacuating them to hospitals.

"Balawegaya" was the code name given to the operation by the relief forces to break the siege by guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) which began with a massive attack on the isolated camp on July 10.

According to official figures, 152 soldiers and more than 1,500 rebels have died in the battle for the control of the camp, which overlooks the causeway linking the mainland with the key rebel stronghold on the Jaffna Peninsula.

They were the largest number of casualties to be suffered by both sides in any single battle since the violent Tamil separatist campaign started almost two decades ago.

The siege of the garrison and the use of newly acquired anti-aircraft guns by the rebels had prevented evacuation of the wounded soldiers from the camp, which continued to be under heavy mortar and rocket attacks by the militants.

Relief forces, which landed on a beach some eight kilometers (five miles) northeast of the camp, met with heavy resistance from the rebels in their push towards the base.

The spokesman said no details were available whether there were fresh clashes before the relief forces linked up with the camp and if there were more casualties.

The battle for the garrison had turned into a "prestige war" between the LTTE and the government security forces, observers here said.

While the LTTE had reportedly told the Jaffna public before the siege began that they were confident of overrunning the camp in 10 days, for the government it was imperative to maintain control of the base, which is the only one remaining in government hands on the 142-kilometer (85-mile) Vavuniya to Jaffna highway.

The fall of the camp would have given virtual control of almost the entire northern province to the rebels, who had overrun several smaller camps earlier.

Premadasa Comments on Battle

BK0408113991 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT
4 Aug 91

[Text] Jubilant Balawegaya troops were consolidating their positions inside the Elephant Pass Army camp and within the interior perimeters at early dawn today, as heavily disrupted Tamil Tigers were fleeing aimlessly in different directions to escape the valiant pursuit of the Balawegaya forces. While first aid teams assisted by medical and paramedical personnel were providing emergency treatment to wounded soldiers inside the camp, the fleeing terrorists were reported to be firing aimlessly from across the railway line in a bid to halt the forces from following them along their path of retreat. The special announcement made by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation from time to time last night that the Balawegaya forces had linked up with the camp at 1840 [1310 GMT] were greeted with bursting [fire]crackers and rejoicing in various cities, towns, and villages throughout Sri Lanka. In certain parts of the country, temple and church bells (?dinged) forth the message to a jubilant nation.

Minutes after, President Premadasa received the heartening news of Balawegaya's triumphant success. It was a calm message of appeal which once again resounded his constant call for consensus, consultation, and compromise. The president told the nation, I hope at least now, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will give up the terror campaign and save innocent lives. In war, no one wins, all are losers. It is in peace where all are victorious, he said. The president further pointed out it is through consultation that we can find solutions to human problems and not through confrontation. At this moment, my thoughts are with our brave soldiers who sacrificed their lives and suffered injuries.

At the time of this broadcast, security forces reported that soldiers within the camp, who needed specialist medical treatment, were being rushed to hospitals within close range and out of LTTE reach. The Balawegaya forces continued to engage themselves in mopping up operations within the inner and outer perimeters of Elephant Pass Army camp as the LTTE leadership apparently had no alternative course but to instruct the retreating forces to retaliate from distant outposts and hidden bunkers, a last minute strategy which was itself in disarray.

Britain Rejects LTTE Leader's Asylum Plea

BK0308133491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT
3 Aug 91

[Text] Sri Lankan rebel Sathasivam Kittu Krishnakumar has been turned down in his request for political asylum and asked to leave Britain by next Wednesday [7 August]. The Home Office said that Krishnakumar, who has been in Britain since 1989, first on a visitor's visa

and then pending an answer to his application for asylum, has abused his position by organizing the raising of funds for the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], of which he is a member.

Colombo Reports Outcome of Herath's India Visit

BK0208114791 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] Sri Lanka Foreign Minister Harold Herath returned to the island yesterday after successful discussions with the Indian leaders, including Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. According to a news release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the discussion held in New Delhi was extremely cordial, friendly, and constructive. Minister Herath held talks with Indian Minister of External Affairs Madhavsingh Solanki and Minister of Finance Dr. Manmohan Singh and Minister of Commerce Chidambaram. The Indo-Sri Lanka foreign ministers signed an agreement to establish joint commission to develop all aspects of relations between the two countries. Two subcommissions will also be convened in August or September this year. A third subcommission to cover cooperation in science and technology will also be established in the near future.

In his talks with the prime minister and the Indian foreign minister, Mr. Herath discussed the need to rationalize SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] activities and to streamline its working methods. It was also agreed that India would expedite the passage of [word indistinct] legislation in respect of the SAARC convention on the suppression of terrorism.

Referring to the ethnic conflict in the country, the foreign minister explained the ongoing dialogue of the

government with all political and ethnic groups to settle the issue. The government terms under which the LTTE could enter the political mainstream were explained to the Indian Government.

The situation of displaced persons of Sri Lanka origin who fled LTTE terror into India was also discussed. Some preliminary information on 500 refugees was handed over to the Sri Lankan delegation. The Foreign Ministry says that Minister Herath's visit provided an opportunity to discuss the entire range of matters of mutual interest to Sri Lanka and India and also regional and international issues.

Human Rights Task Force To Monitor Detainees

BK0208121591 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Aug 91

[Text] The president has with effect from Wednesday made provision for the setting up of a human rights task force under the Sri Lanka Foundation Law. The function of the task force will be to monitor observance of fundamental rights of persons detained in custody other than by a judicial order. The human rights task force will maintain a comprehensive and accurate list of persons detained and will be establishing the proper identity of all such persons. It will monitor the welfare of such persons and record inquiry into it and determine complaints and representations made by them. The human rights task force will have powers to enter and inspect places where persons are being detained to hold inquiries and to summon any person to appear before the task force. Any person committing an offense of contempt against or in disrespect of the authority of human rights task force could be reported to the Supreme Court. The human rights task force will formulate procedures and commence work immediately.